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PAPERINIK NEW ADVENTURES

XADHOOM!
THE TRILOGY
EPISODE II

FAR, FAR AWAY

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XADHOOM!
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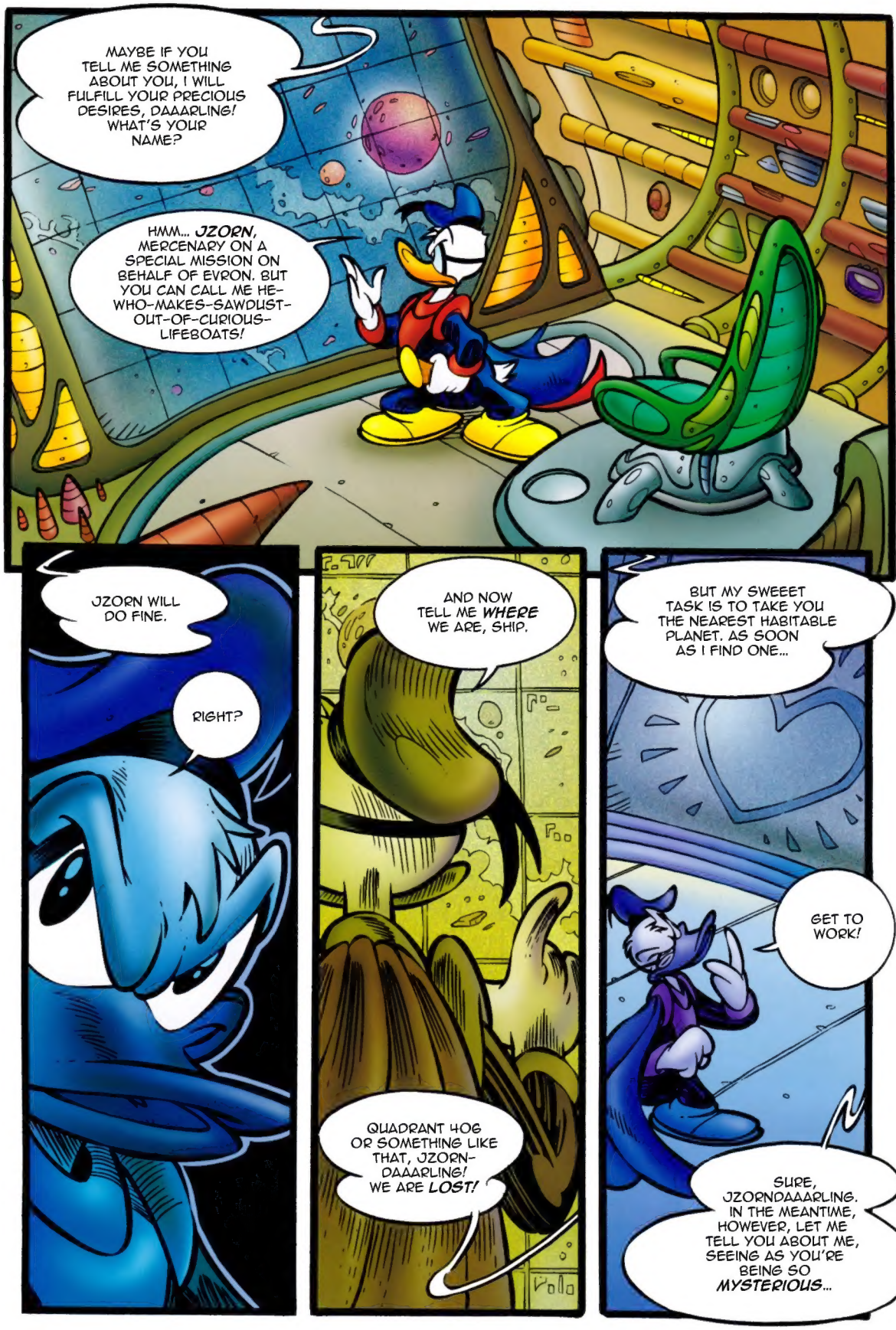
EPISODE II

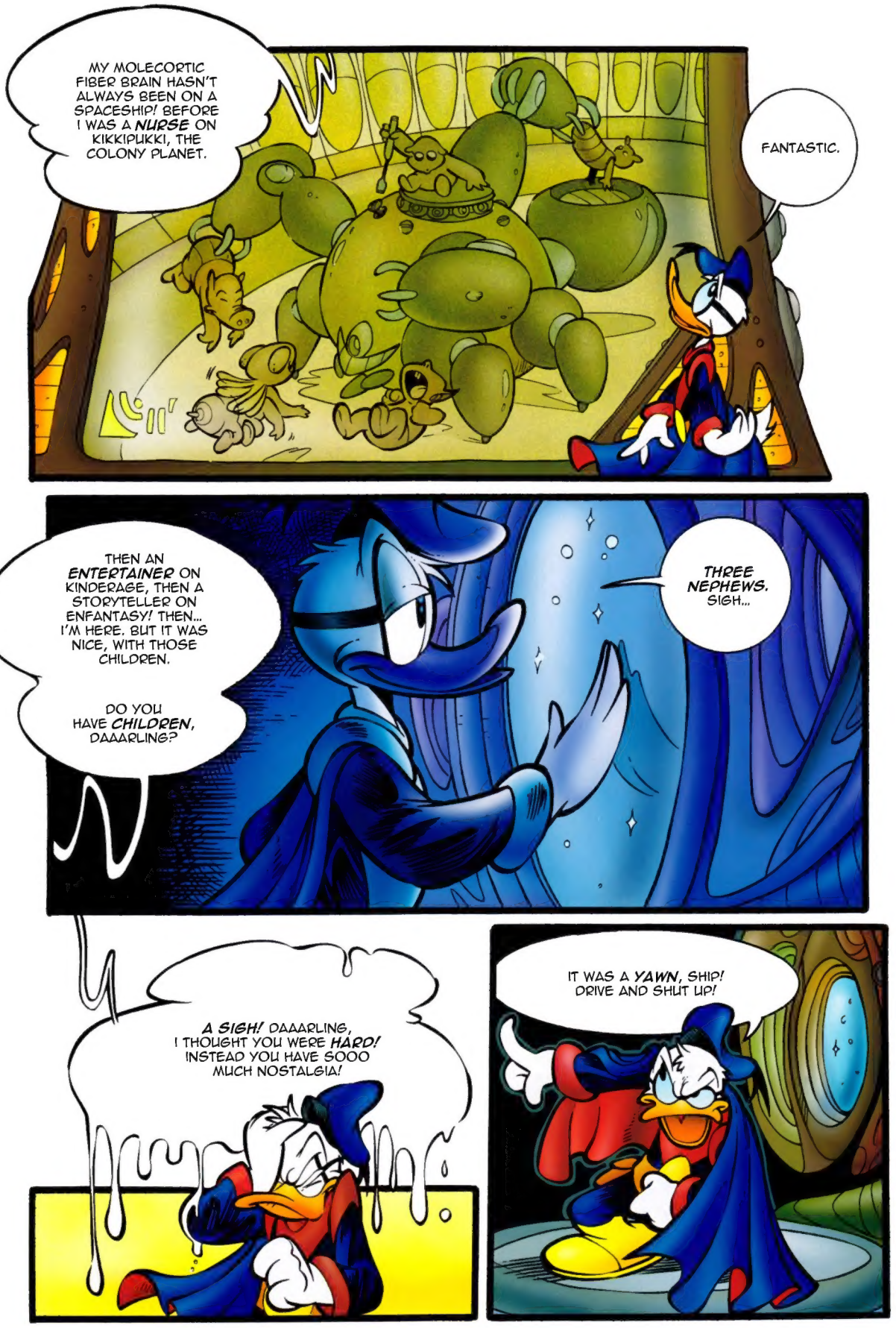
PAPERINIK NEW ADVENTURES

19

FAR, FAR AWAY

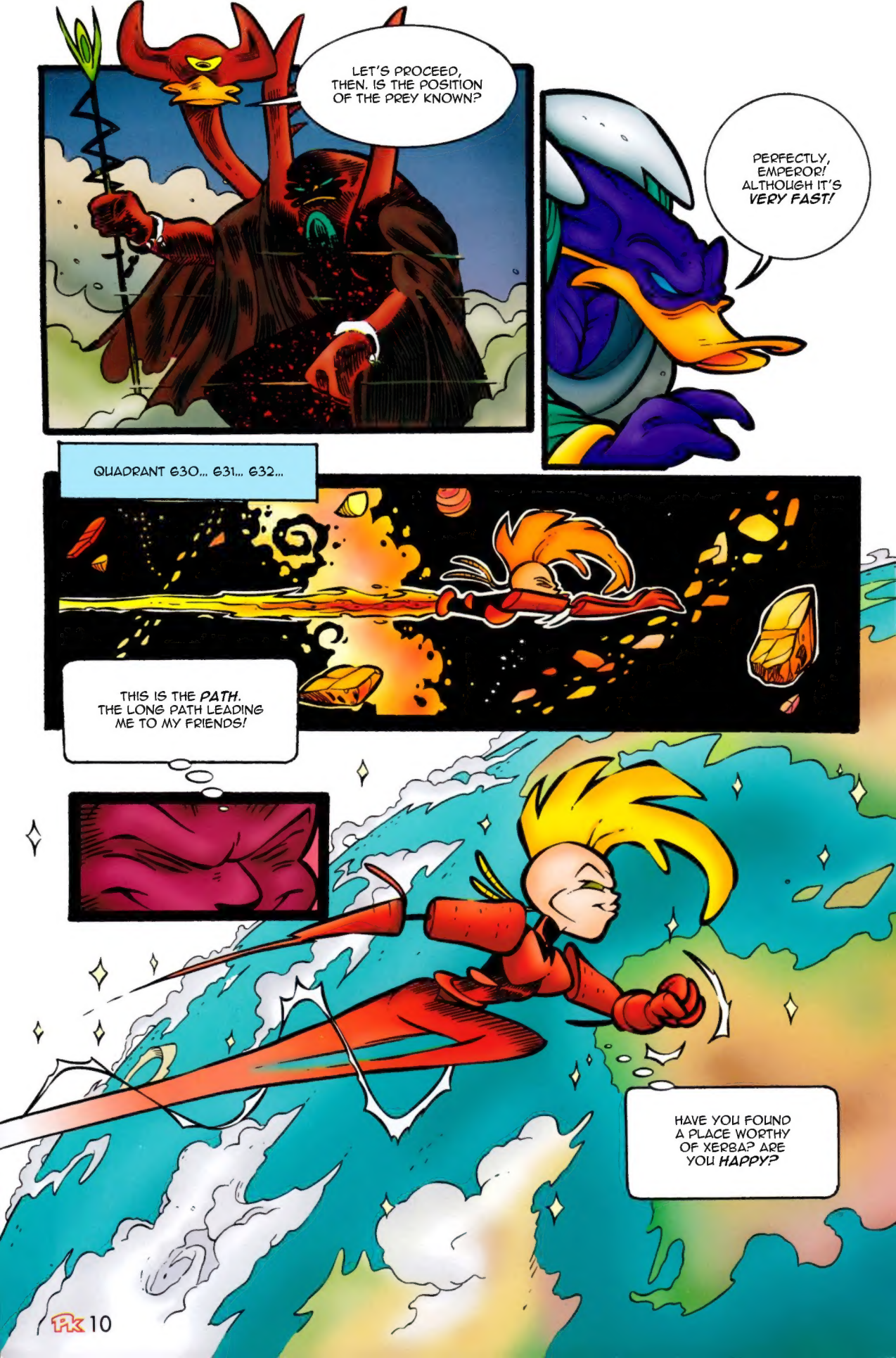
QUADRANT 406, SECOND EVAGINATION, FIRST OR FIFTH PARTICLE, DEPENDING ON THE POINTS OF VIEW.
WALT DISNEY
A LITTLE MUSIC, DAAARLING?
NO.
SOME HOT RAAFGHNN?
NO.
A BIT OF...
OF SILENCE, SHIP.
LONTANO
LONTANO
IN SHORT, FAR AWAY.

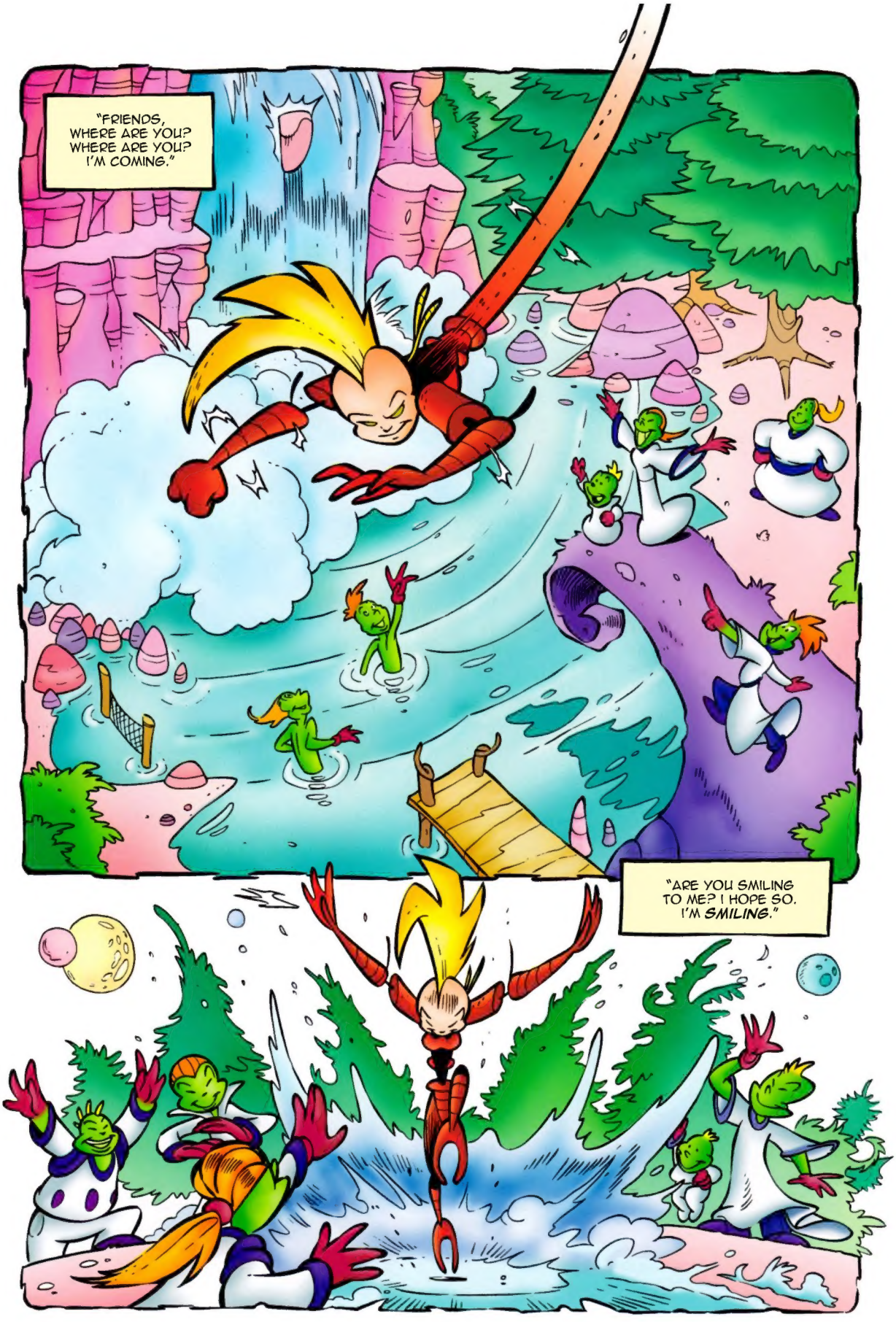

MAYBE IF YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOU, I WILL FULFILL YOUR PRECIOUS DESIRES, DAAARLING! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HMM... JZORN, MERCENARY ON A SPECIAL MISSION ON BEHALF OF EVRON. BUT YOU CAN CALL ME HE-WHO-MAKES-SAWDUST-OUT-OF-CURIOUS-LIFEBOATS!
JZORN WILL DO FINE.
RIGHT?
AND NOW TELL ME WHERE WE ARE, SHIP.
QUADRANT 406 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, JZORN-DAAARLING! WE ARE LOST!
BUT MY SWEEET TASK IS TO TAKE YOU THE NEAREST HABITABLE PLANET. AS SOON AS I FIND ONE...
GET TO WORK!
SURE, JZORNDAAARLING. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ME, SEEING AS YOU'RE BEING SO MYSTERIOUS...


MY MOLECORTIC FIBER BRAIN HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN ON A SPACESHIP! BEFORE I WAS A NURSE ON KIKKIPUKKI, THE COLONY PLANET.
FANTASTIC.
THEN AN ENTERTAINER ON KINDERAGE, THEN A STORYTELLER ON ENFANTASY! THEN... I'M HERE. BUT IT WAS NICE, WITH THOSE CHILDREN.
DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN, DAAARLING?
THREE NEPHEWS. SIGH...
A SIGH! DAAARLING, I THOUGHT YOU WERE HARD! INSTEAD YOU HAVE SOOO MUCH NOSTALGIA!
IT WAS A YAWN, SHIP! DRIVE AND SHUT UP!

IT WAS A SIGH, DAAARLING!
SHUT UP.
OF NOSTALGIA.
DRIVE.
QUADRANT 388, SIXTH EVAGINATION, SEVENTEENTH, EIGHT, NINTH AND TENTH PARTICLE. BECAUSE EVRON IS BIG. FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW.
NOBLE WARRIORS! THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL HAS DELIBERATED! WE'LL CHASE THE PREY TO THE LAST QUADRANT, IF NECESSARY!
AND BEYOND, IF NECESSARY!
AND, IF NECESSARY, FOR A LONG TIME!

ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURE, THOSE WHO HAVE OBSERVATIONS WILL SPEAK NOW!
IF I MAY...
BZAP
A-ANYONE ELSE?
NO!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
ARE YOU SURE?

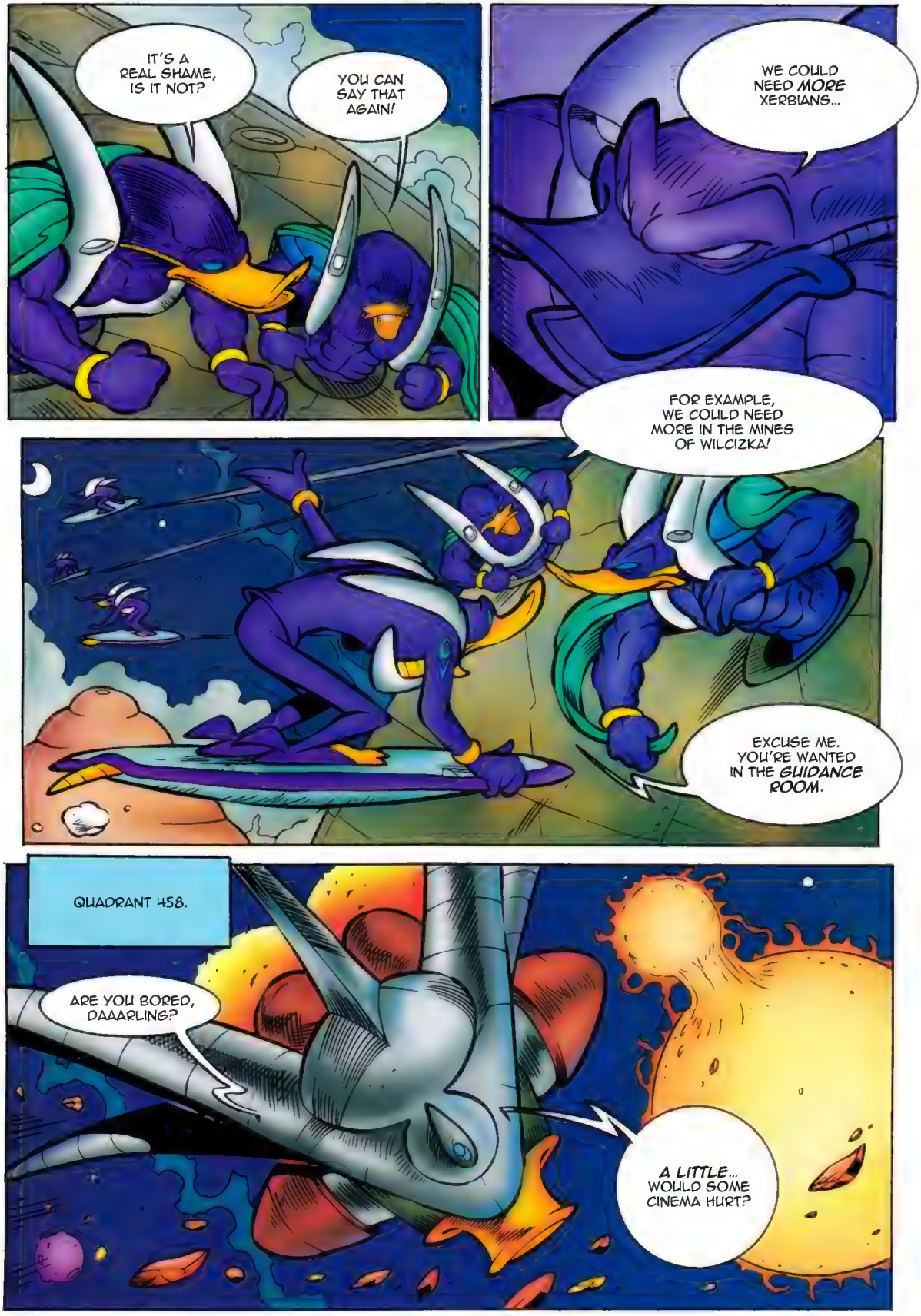

LET'S PROCEED, THEN. IS THE POSITION OF THE PREY KNOWN?
PERFECTLY, EMPEROR! ALTHOUGH IT'S VERY FAST!
QUADRANT 630... 631... 632...
THIS IS THE PATH. THE LONG PATH LEADING ME TO MY FRIENDS!
HAVE YOU FOUND A PLACE WORTHY OF XERBA? ARE YOU HAPPY?


"FRIENDS, WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU? I'M COMING."
"ARE YOU SMILING TO ME? I HOPE SO. I'M SMILING."

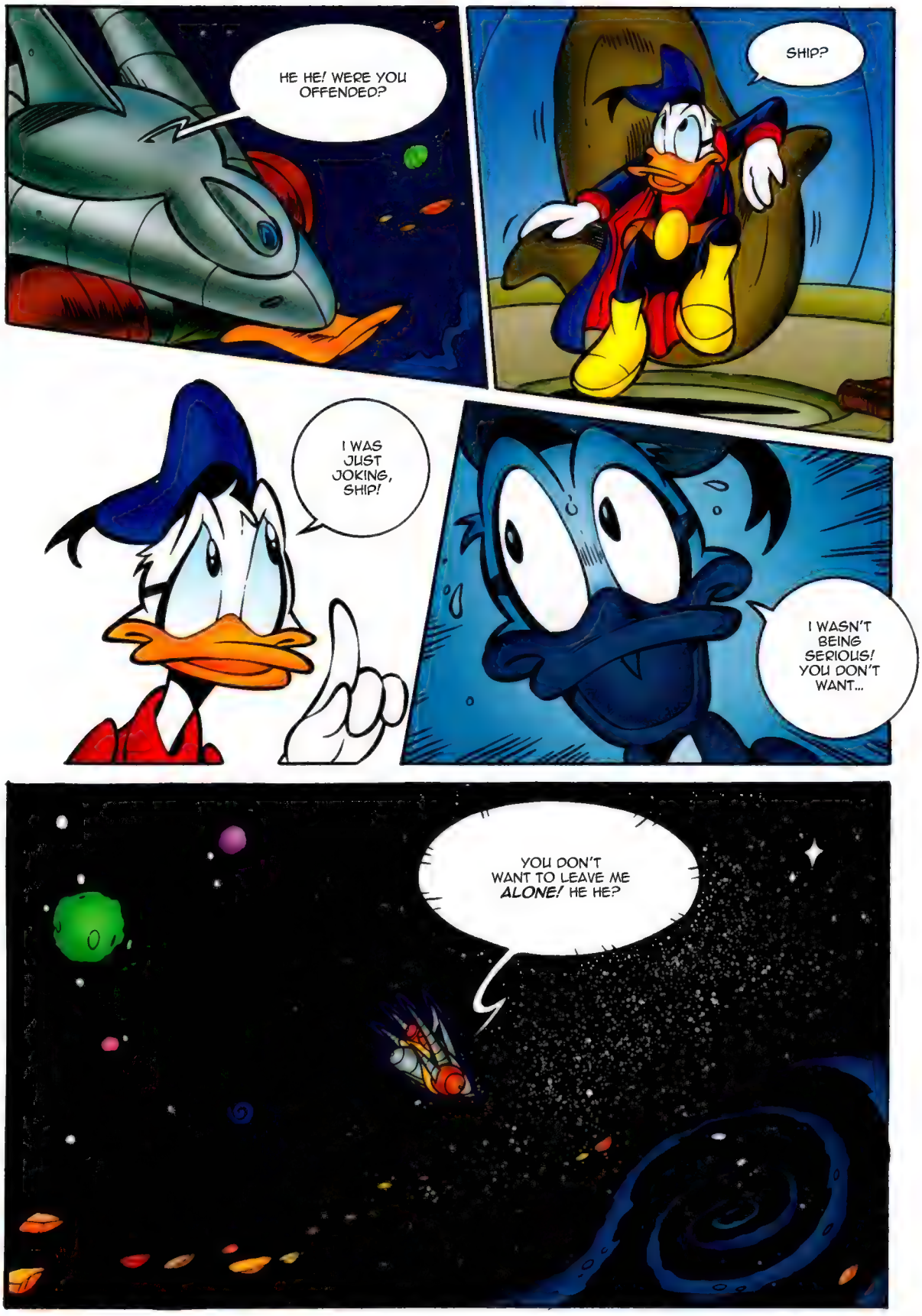
"WE'LL FORGET ABOUT THE SAD DAYS."
"FORGET ABOUT THEM TOGETHER."

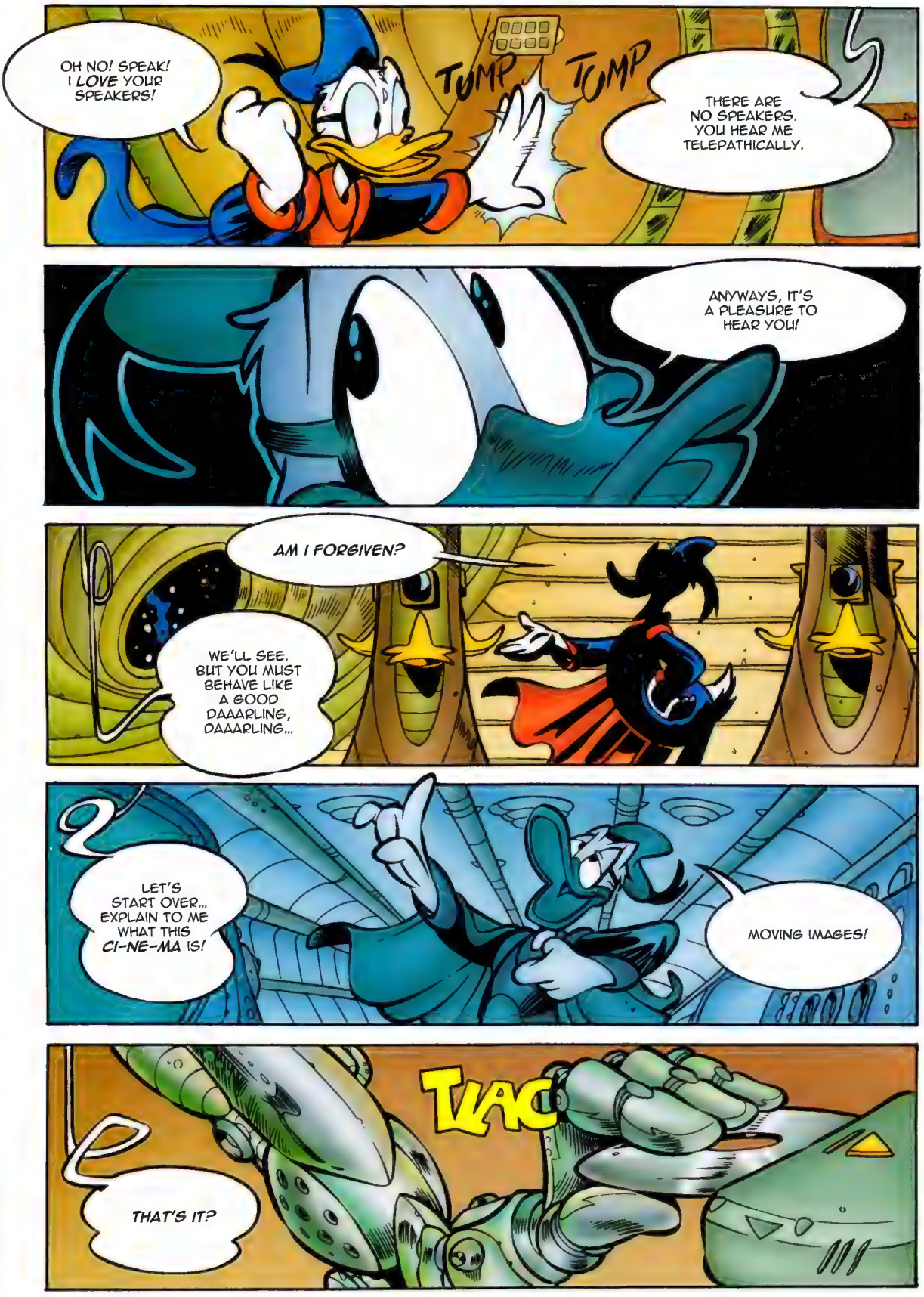
WHY AM I CRYING? BECAUSE I'M HAPPY, XARI!
YOU'LL GET TO RENEW OUR TRUST, PROJECT LEADER!
I'M GLAD, EMPEROR.
THE APPROACH MANEUVER TO THE PREY HAS BEGUN! ARE YOU READY?
WE'LL BE READY.

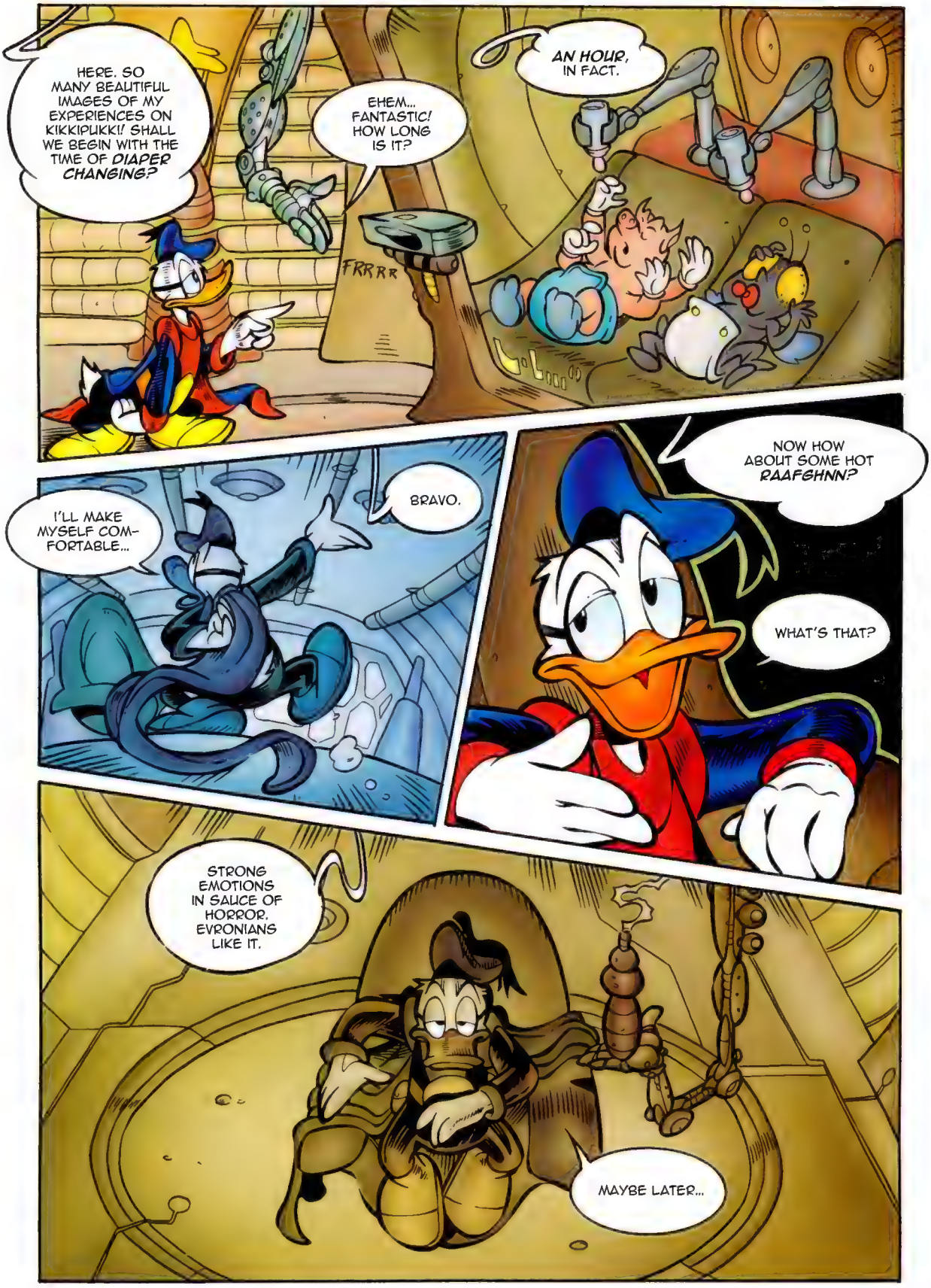
AND WE WILL NOT FORGET OUR PROMISE. WHEN THE VICTIM IS *AT DISPOSAL*, YOU'LL SEE YOUR KINSMEN, THE PEOPLE YOU LOST! AND YOU'LL BE *FREE!*
MAY THAT DAY SOON COME. AND THAT EVRON LASTS *LONGER OF THE SAME TIME.*
INFERIOR, BUT POLITE!
YEAH! THE XERBIANS LEARN QUICK!
BUT WILL WE REALLY BRING HIM BACK TO THEM?
THE *CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION* IS CONFIDENTIAL TO *US*, AGRON! HAVE YOU NEVER HAD A LOOK AT "THE ENSLAVED PEOPLE"?
LATELY I'VE HAD LITTLE TIME FOR...
SOME SAY THERE ARE OTHER XERBIANS SOMEWHERE. BUT *NO ONE* KNOWS FOR SURE.

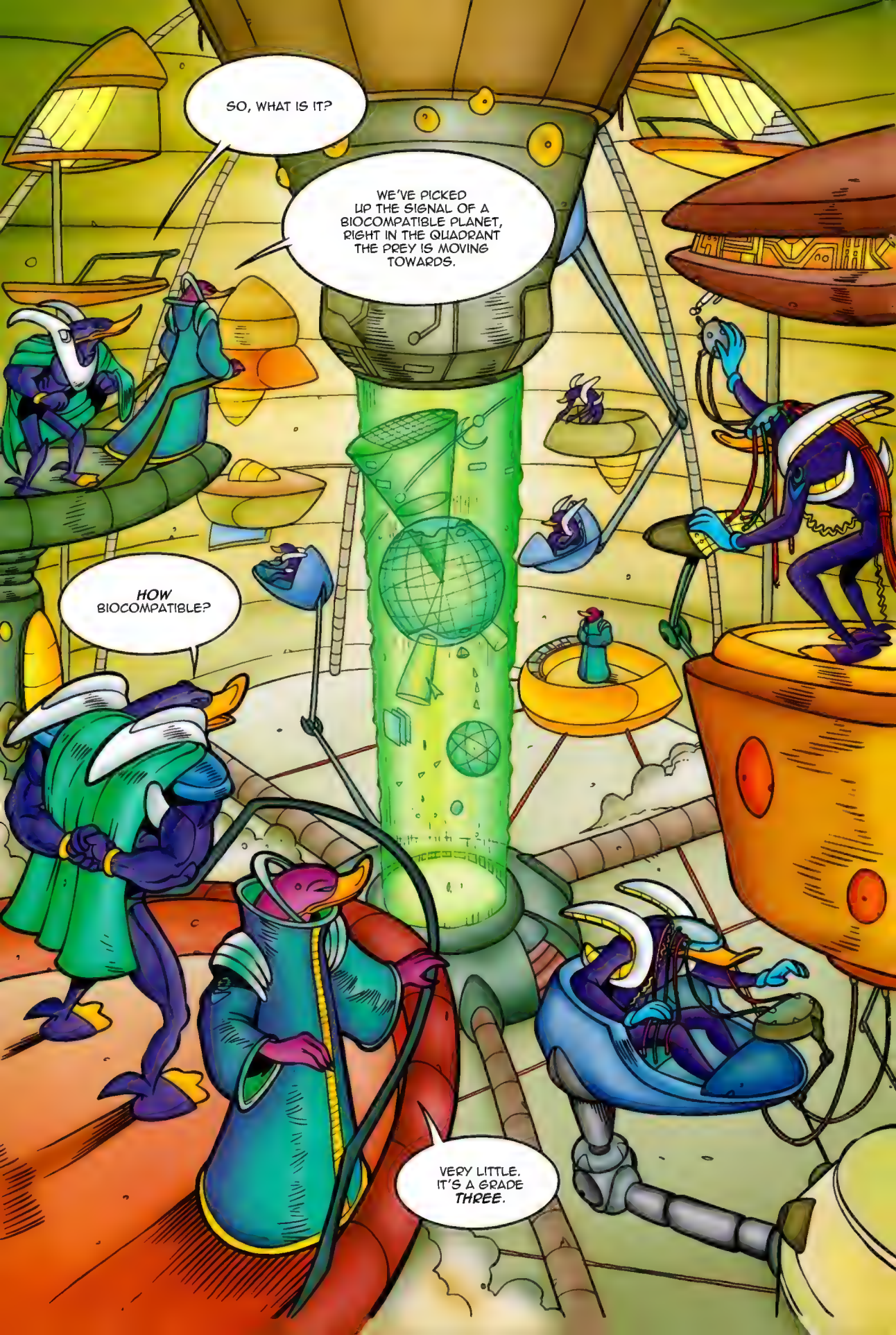

IT'S A REAL SHAME, IS IT NOT?
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
WE COULD NEED *MORE* XERBIANS...
FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD NEED MORE IN THE MINES OF WILCIZKA!
EXCUSE ME. YOU'RE WANTED IN THE *GUIDANCE ROOM*.
QUADRANT 458.
ARE YOU BORED, DAAARLING?
A LITTLE... WOULD SOME CINEMA HURT?

CI-NE-MA? WHAT'S THAT?
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT COMICS? WELL, IMAGINE THAT THEY'RE MOVING.
CO-MI-CS? WHAT ARE THEY?
AND WHAT ARE YOU BROWSING, DAAARLING?
SOMETHING EN-TER-TAIN-ING! MORE THAN WHAT I'M BROWSING THROUGH NOW!
YOUR MAINTENANCE MANUAL!
OH, BUT THEN YOU DO CARE ABOUT ME! I THOUGHT THAT...
I'M LOOKING FOR THE COMMAND THAT EXCLUDES YOUR SPEAKERS.
HA HA!


HE HE! WERE YOU OFFENDED?
SHIP?
I WAS JUST JOKING, SHIP!
I WASN'T BEING SERIOUS! YOU DON'T WANT...
YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ME *ALONE!* HE HE?

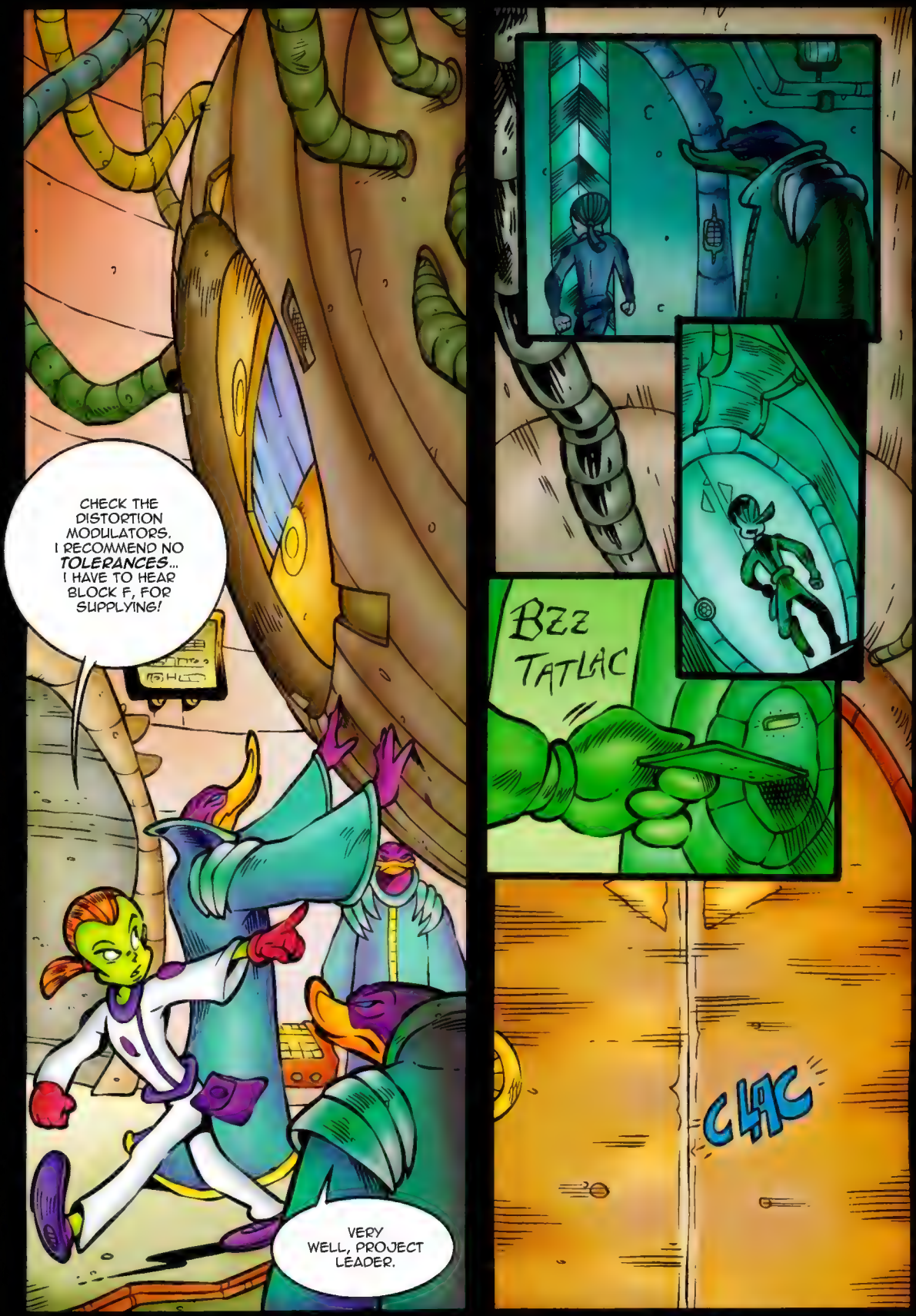

OH NO! SPEAK! I LOVE YOUR SPEAKERS!
TUMP
TUMP
THERE ARE NO SPEAKERS. YOU HEAR ME TELEPATHICALLY.
ANYWAYS, IT'S A PLEASURE TO HEAR YOU!
AM I FORGIVEN?
WE'LL SEE. BUT YOU MUST BEHAVE LIKE A GOOD DAAARLING, DAAARLING...
LET'S START OVER... EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THIS CI-NE-MA IS!
MOVING IMAGES!
TLAC
THAT'S IT?


HERE. SO MANY BEAUTIFUL IMAGES OF MY EXPERIENCES ON KIKKIPUKKI! SHALL WE BEGIN WITH THE TIME OF *DIAPER CHANGING?*
EHEM... FANTASTIC! HOW LONG IS IT?
AN HOUR, IN FACT.
FRRRR
I'LL MAKE MYSELF COMFORTABLE...
BRAVO.
NOW HOW ABOUT SOME HOT *RAAFGHNN?*
WHAT'S THAT?
STRONG EMOTIONS IN SAUCE OF HORROR. EVRONIANS LIKE IT.
MAYBE LATER...

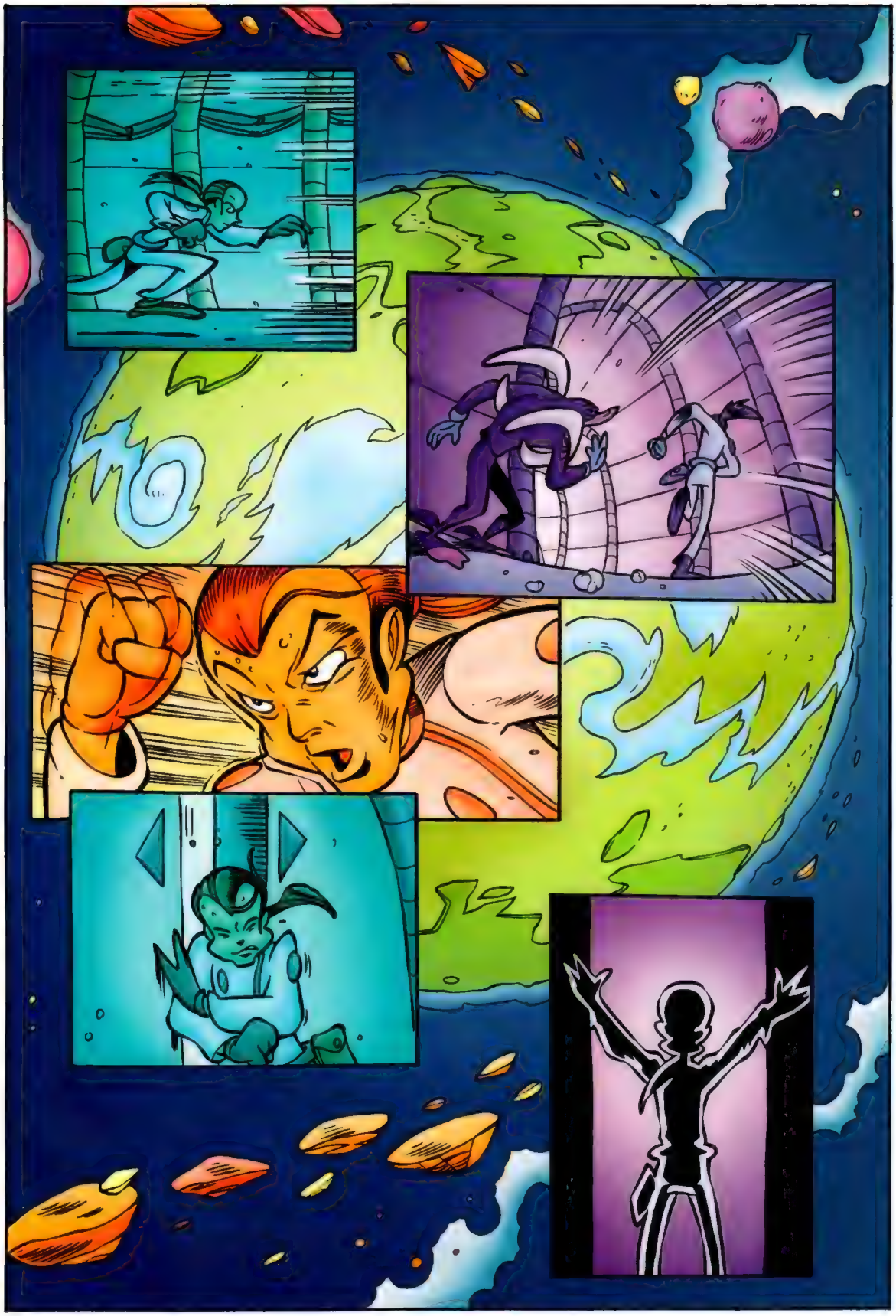

SO, WHAT IS IT?
WE'VE PICKED UP THE SIGNAL OF A BIOCOMPATIBLE PLANET, RIGHT IN THE QUADRANT THE PREY IS MOVING TOWARDS.
HOW BIOCOMPATIBLE?
VERY LITTLE. IT'S A GRADE *THREE*.

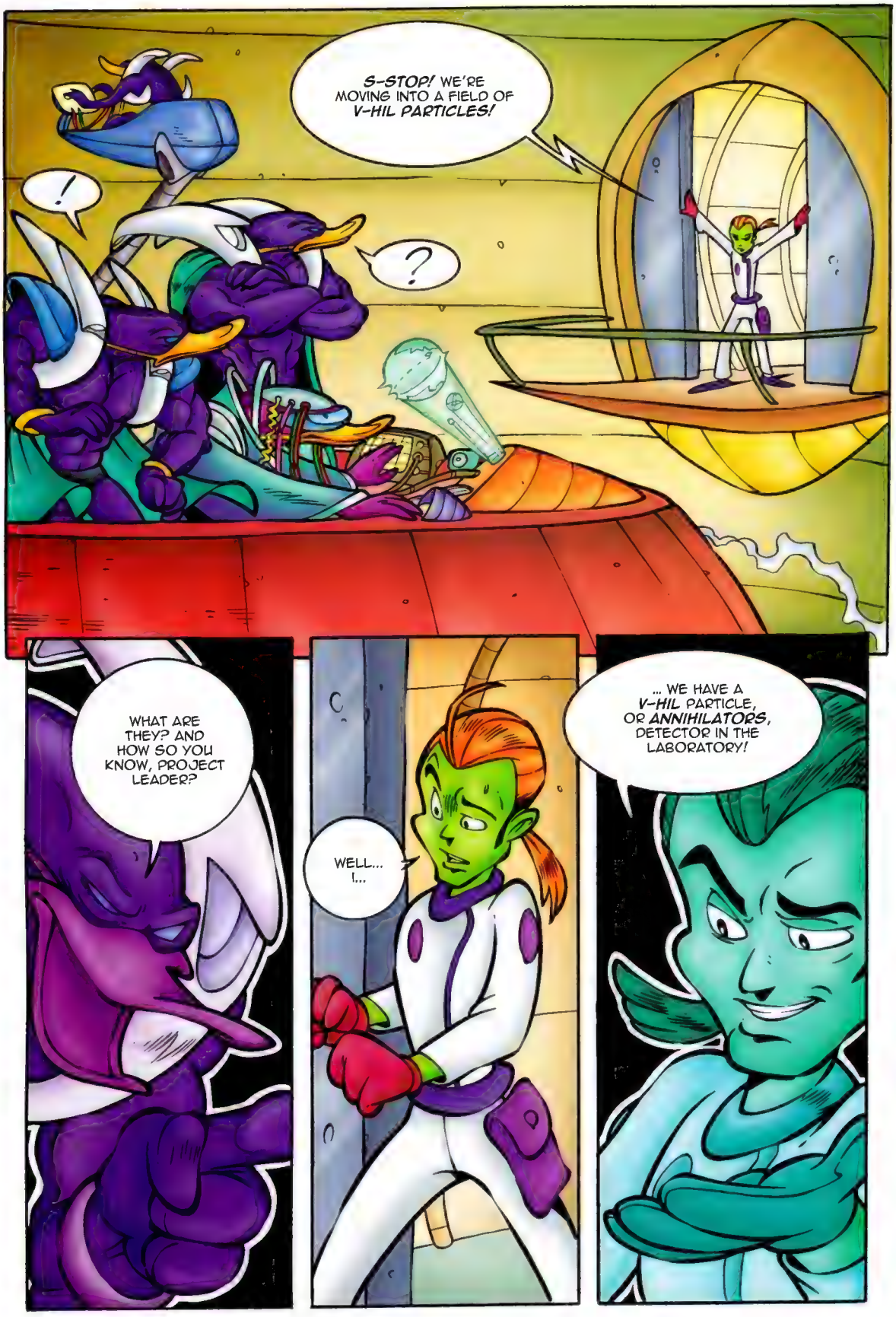
GRADE THREE ALLOWS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BACTERIA. AT MOST, SOME *FUNGUS!*
FUNGUS?
IS THERE *WATER* THERE?
A LOT. APPARENTLY THE PLANET HAS *TWO POLAR ICE CAPS!*
JUST LIKE... LIKE... HELP ME OUT, AGRON!
EARRRGHT, I THINK.
EARTH. YES, IT'S THE PLANET WHERE THE FIRST *EVENTUAL* COOLING WAS PLANNED.

TWO POLAR ICE CAPS! INTERESTING.
JUST LIKE ON THE... EHEM... ON THE PLANET WHERE THE FIRST EVENTUAL COOLING WAS PLANNED!
HA HA! (LAUGH!)
... BURNING!
YEAH, YEAH. THE DEFEAT OF XADHOOM COULD BE...
HE HE! (WHY?)
HA HA!
ENOUGH NOW!
CORRECT THE ROUT AS NEEDED, KEEPING IN SIGHT THE PREY AND THE PLANET!

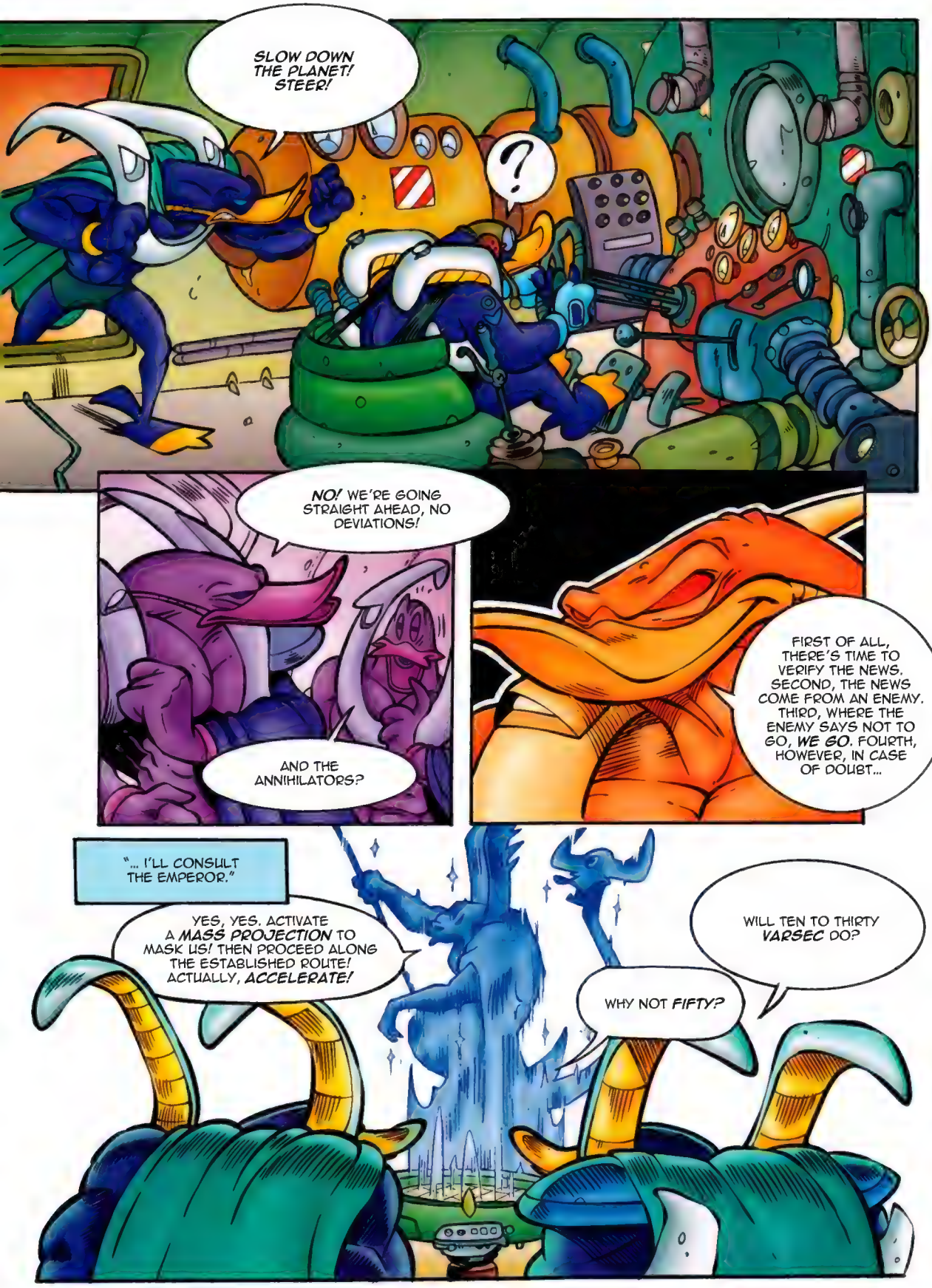

CHECK THE DISTORTION MODULATORS. I RECOMMEND NO *TOLERANCES*... I HAVE TO HEAR BLOCK F, FOR SUPPLYING!
VERY WELL, PROJECT LEADER.
BZZ TATLAC
CLAC

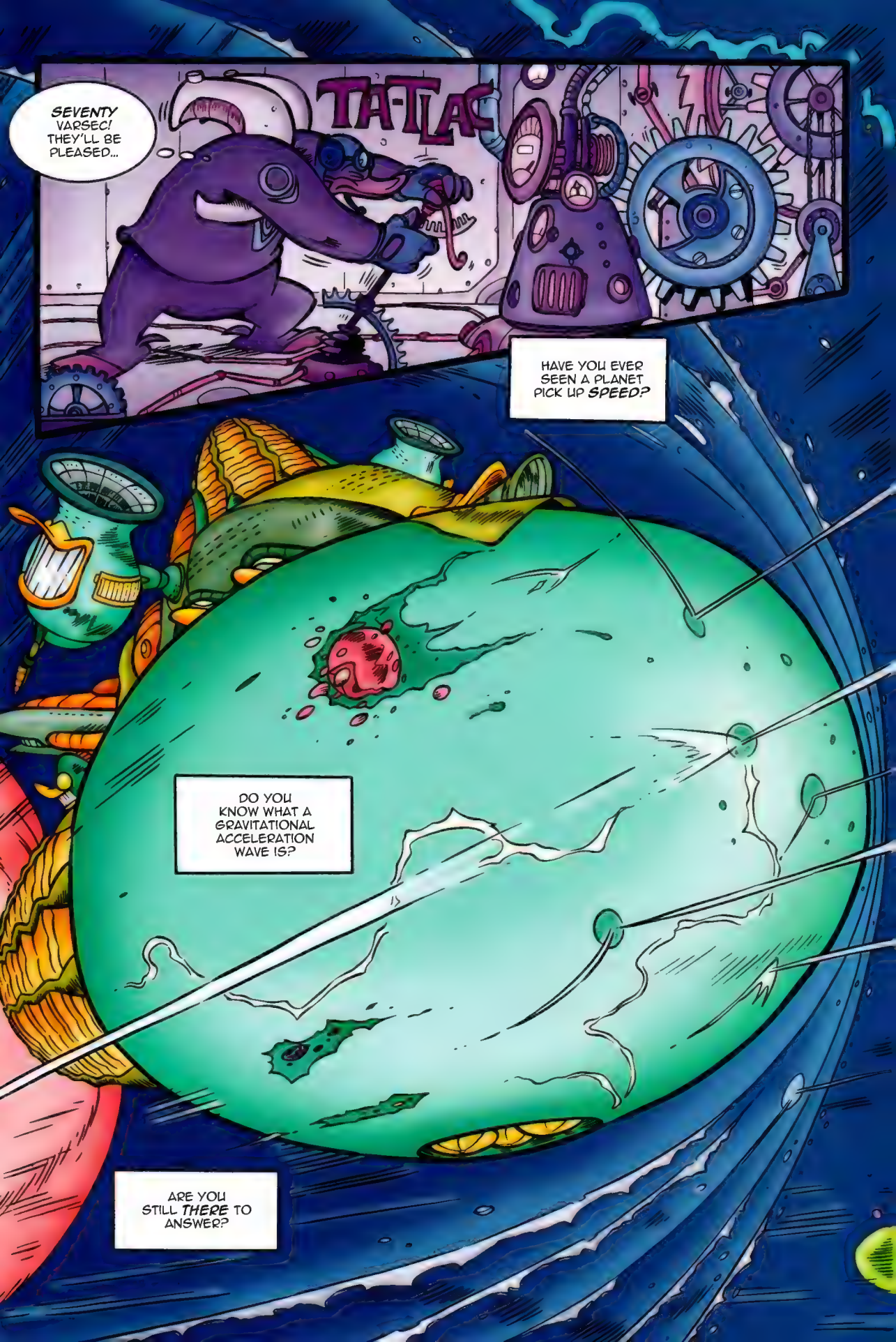
BUT THEY'RE GOING TOWARDS... TOWARDS...
GGGGNNN...

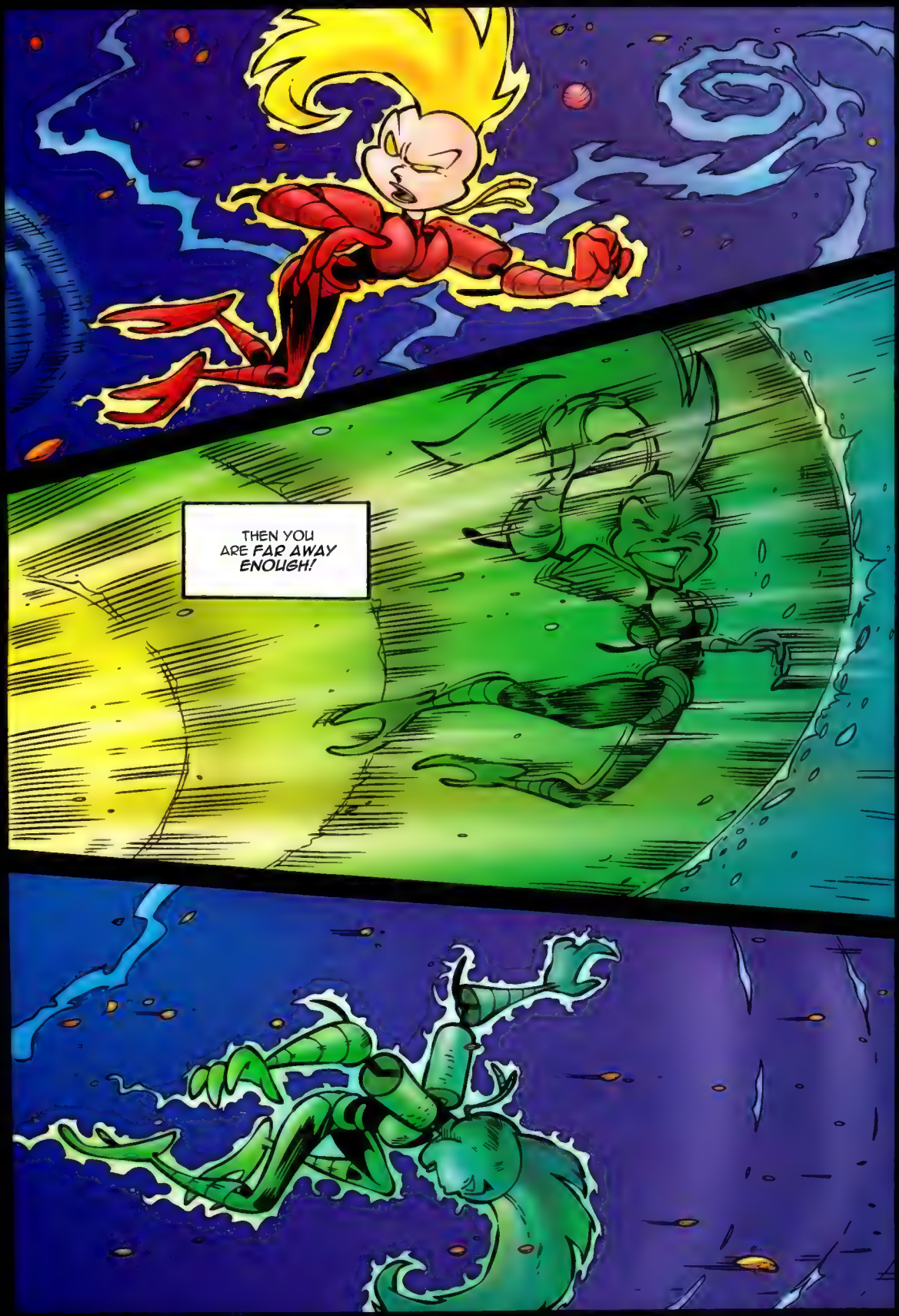



S-STOP! WE'RE MOVING INTO A FIELD OF V-HIL PARTICLES!
!
?
WHAT ARE THEY? AND HOW SO YOU KNOW, PROJECT LEADER?
WELL... I...
... WE HAVE A V-HIL PARTICLE, OR ANNIHILATORS, DETECTOR IN THE LABORATORY!

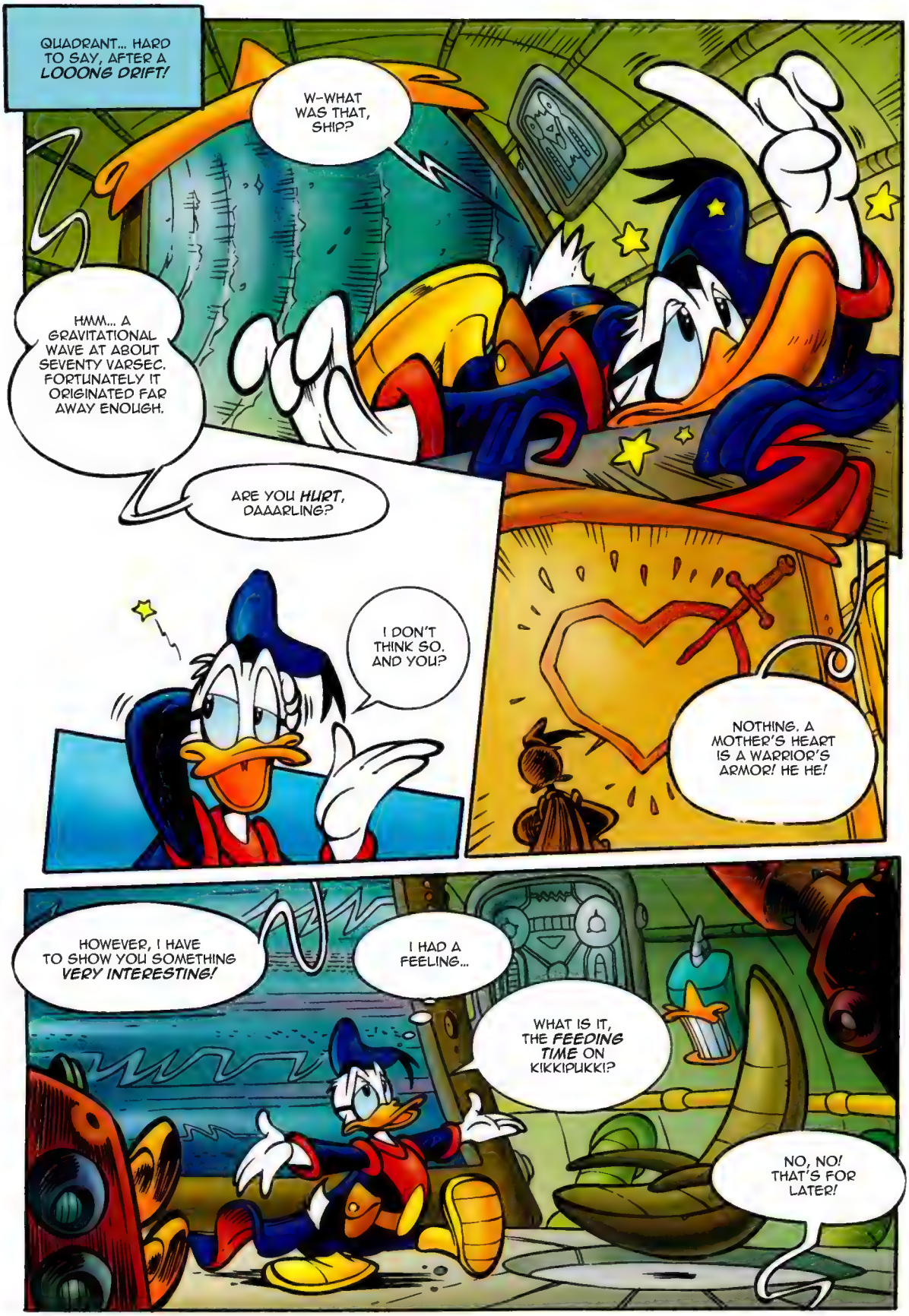
IF WE CONTINUE ON THIS ROUTE, WE RISK TOTAL DESTRUCTION!
HMM... THE PREY IS CLEARLY DRAWING US INTO A TRAP!
THAT'S IT! WE MUST DIVERT NOW!
WE WILL! AND YOUR WARNING WILL BE REWARDED!
NOTIFY THE PILOT!
WISE AXER! MAKE THEM BELIEVE! MAKE THEM BELIEVE!


SLOW DOWN THE PLANET! STEER!
?
NO! WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD, NO DEVIATIONS!
AND THE ANNIHILATORS?
FIRST OF ALL, THERE'S TIME TO VERIFY THE NEWS. SECOND, THE NEWS COME FROM AN ENEMY. THIRD, WHERE THE ENEMY SAYS NOT TO GO, WE GO. FOURTH, HOWEVER, IN CASE OF DOUBT...
"... I'LL CONSULT THE EMPEROR."
YES, YES. ACTIVATE A MASS PROJECTION TO MASK US! THEN PROCEED ALONG THE ESTABLISHED ROUTE! ACTUALLY, ACCELERATE!
WILL TEN TO THIRTY VARSEC DO?
WHY NOT FIFTY?

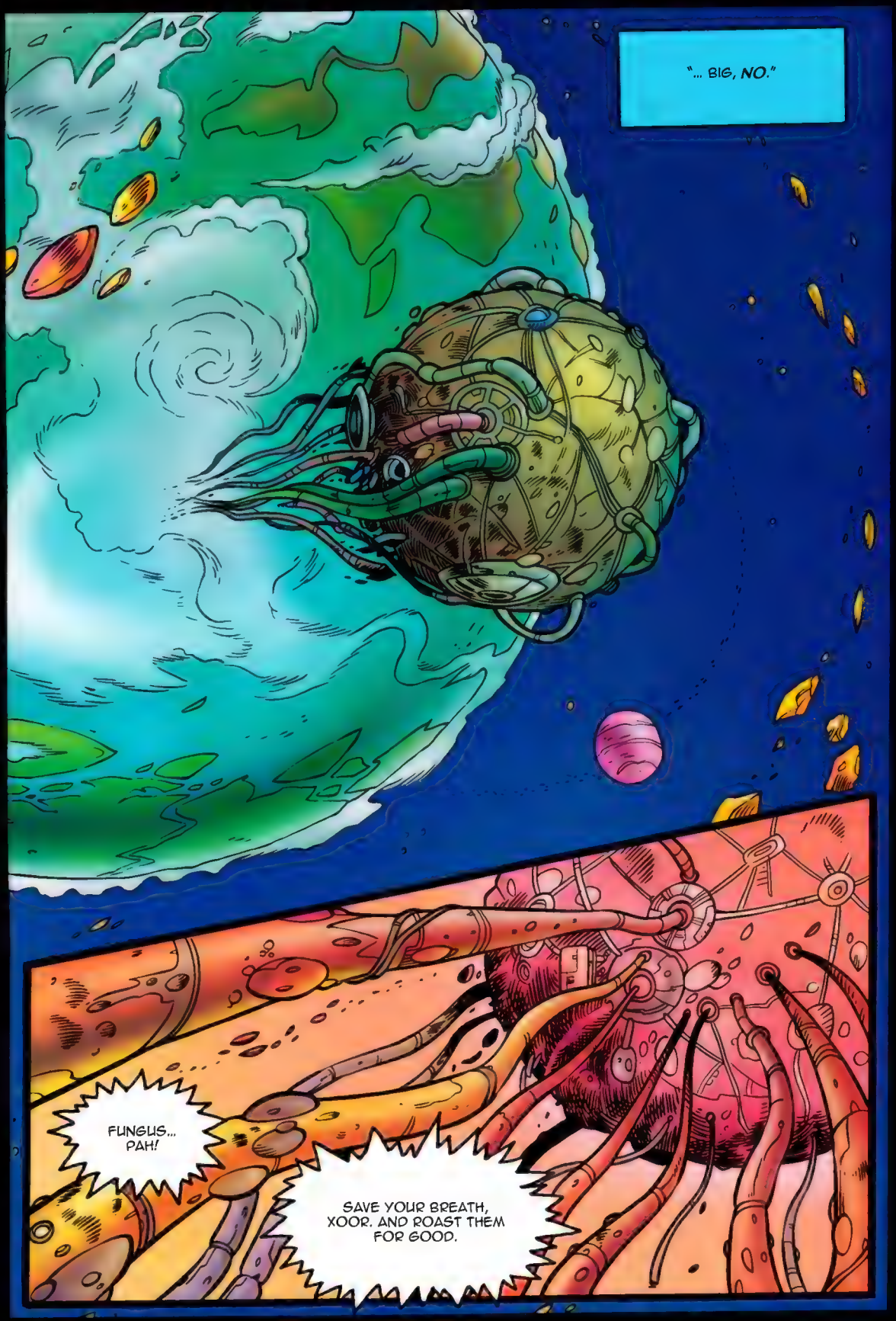

SEVENTY VARSEC! THEY'LL BE PLEASED...
TA-TLAC
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A PLANET PICK UP SPEED?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A GRAVITATIONAL ACCELERATION WAVE IS?
ARE YOU STILL THERE TO ANSWER?

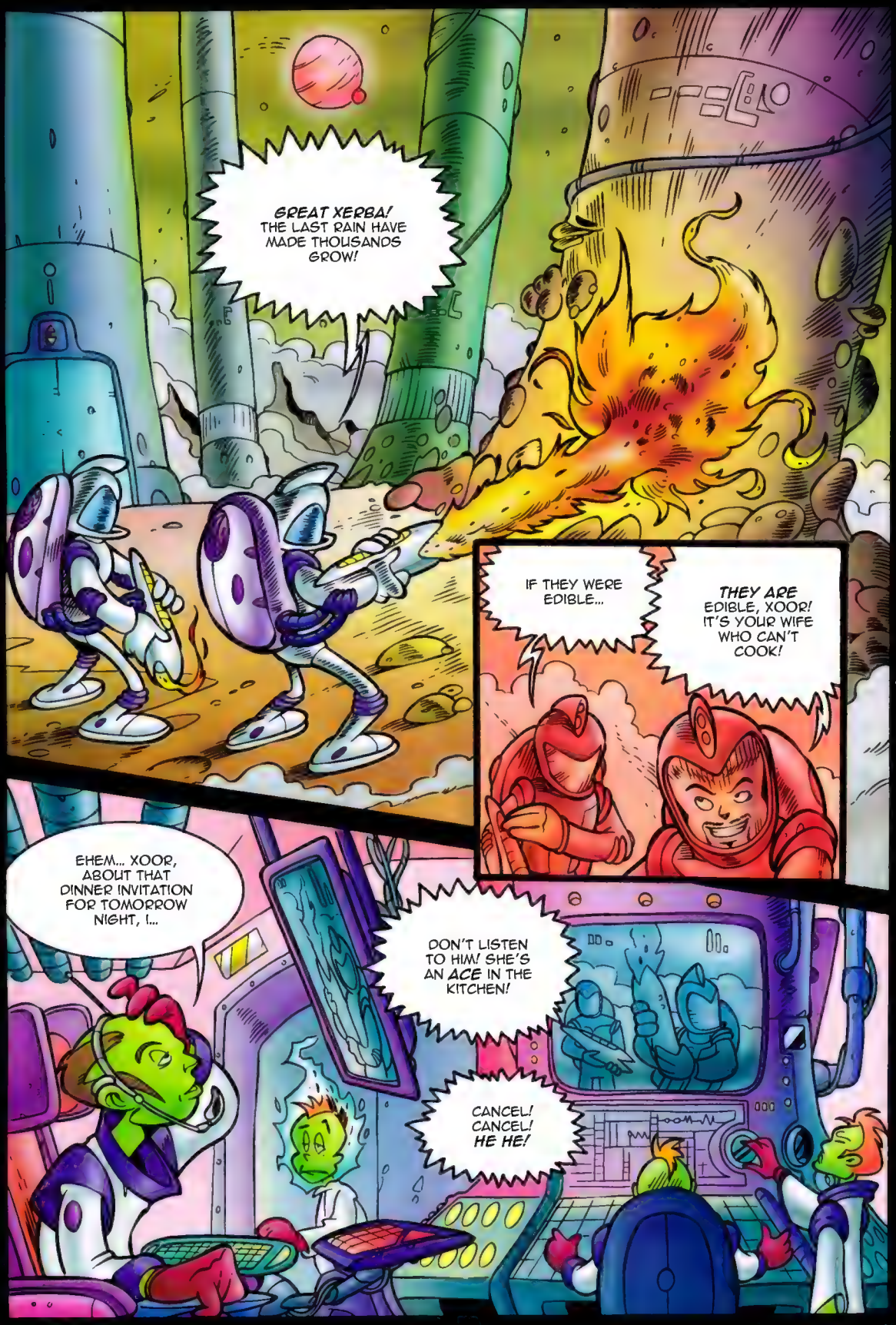

THEN YOU ARE FAR AWAY ENOUGH!

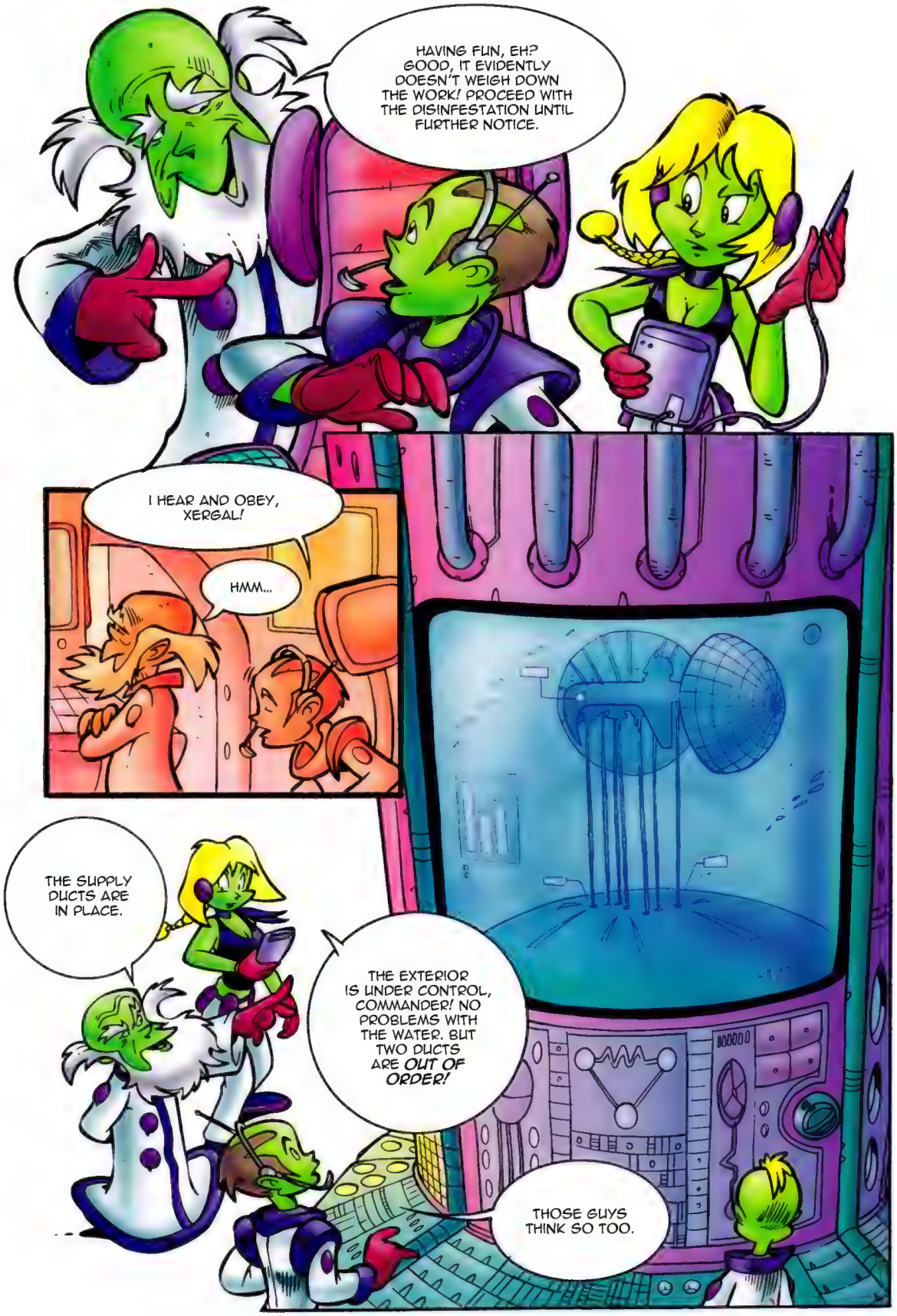
THE TRACE OF THE PREY HAS DISAPPEARED!
OUR GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MUST HAVE...
MUST HAVE WHAT?!
... EXTINGUISHED HER.
WE HAVE EXAGGERATED WITH THE ACCELERATION...
UH HUH. WE MUST T-TELL THE EMPEROR.
BUT NOT RIGHT AWAY! MAYBE THE SIGNAL WILL RETURN!
HOWEVER, I HAVE A STRANGE PRE-MONITION...

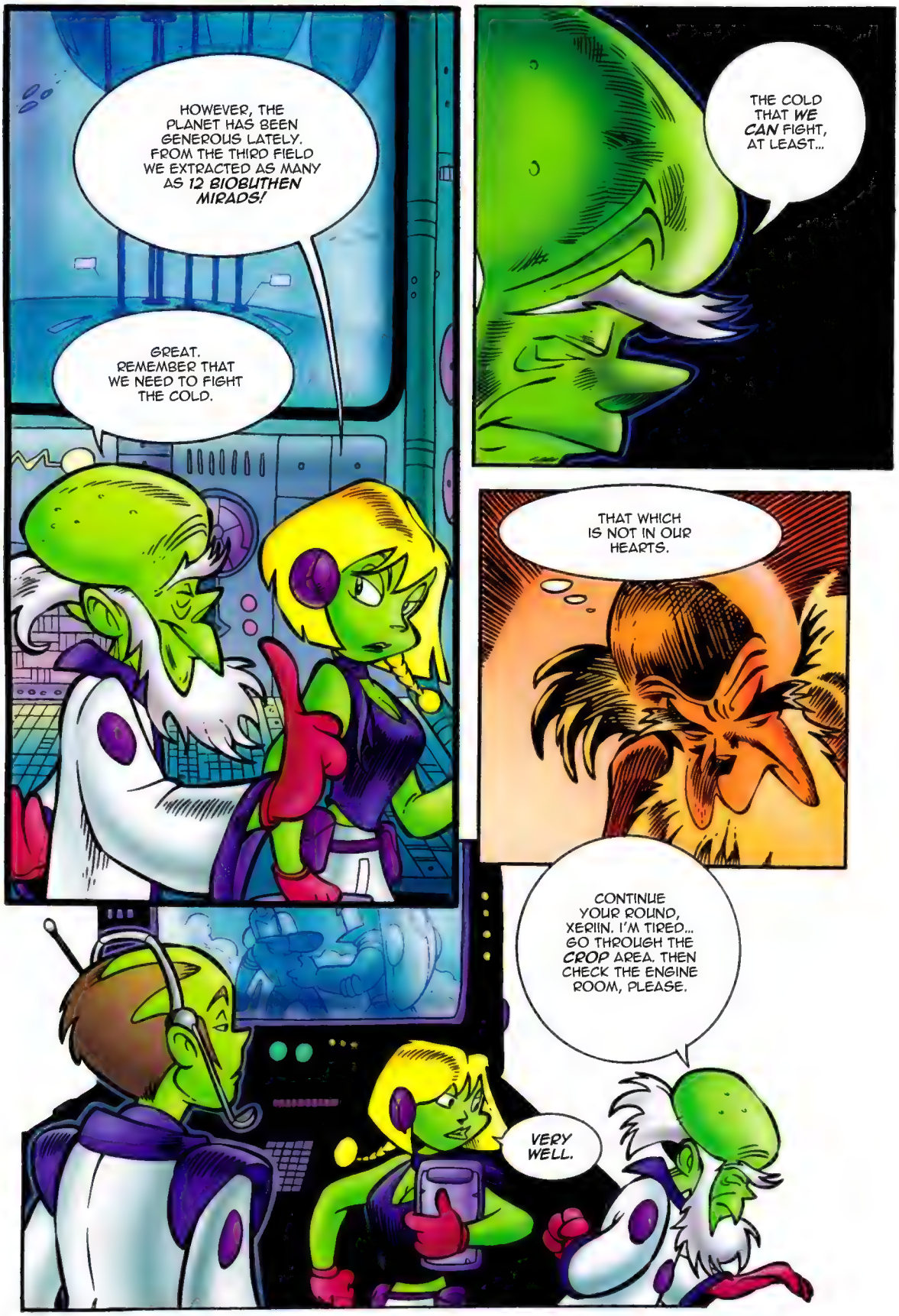

QUADRANT... HARD TO SAY, AFTER A *LOOONG DRIFT!*
W-WHAT WAS THAT, SHIP?
HMM... A GRAVITATIONAL WAVE AT ABOUT SEVENTY VARSEC. FORTUNATELY IT ORIGINATED FAR AWAY ENOUGH.
ARE YOU *HURT*, DAAARLING?
I DON'T THINK SO. AND YOU?
NOTHING. A MOTHER'S HEART IS A WARRIOR'S ARMOR! HE HE!
HOWEVER, I HAVE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING *VERY INTERESTING!*
I HAD A FEELING...
WHAT IS IT, THE *FEEDING TIME* ON KIKKIPUKKI?
NO, NO! THAT'S FOR LATER!

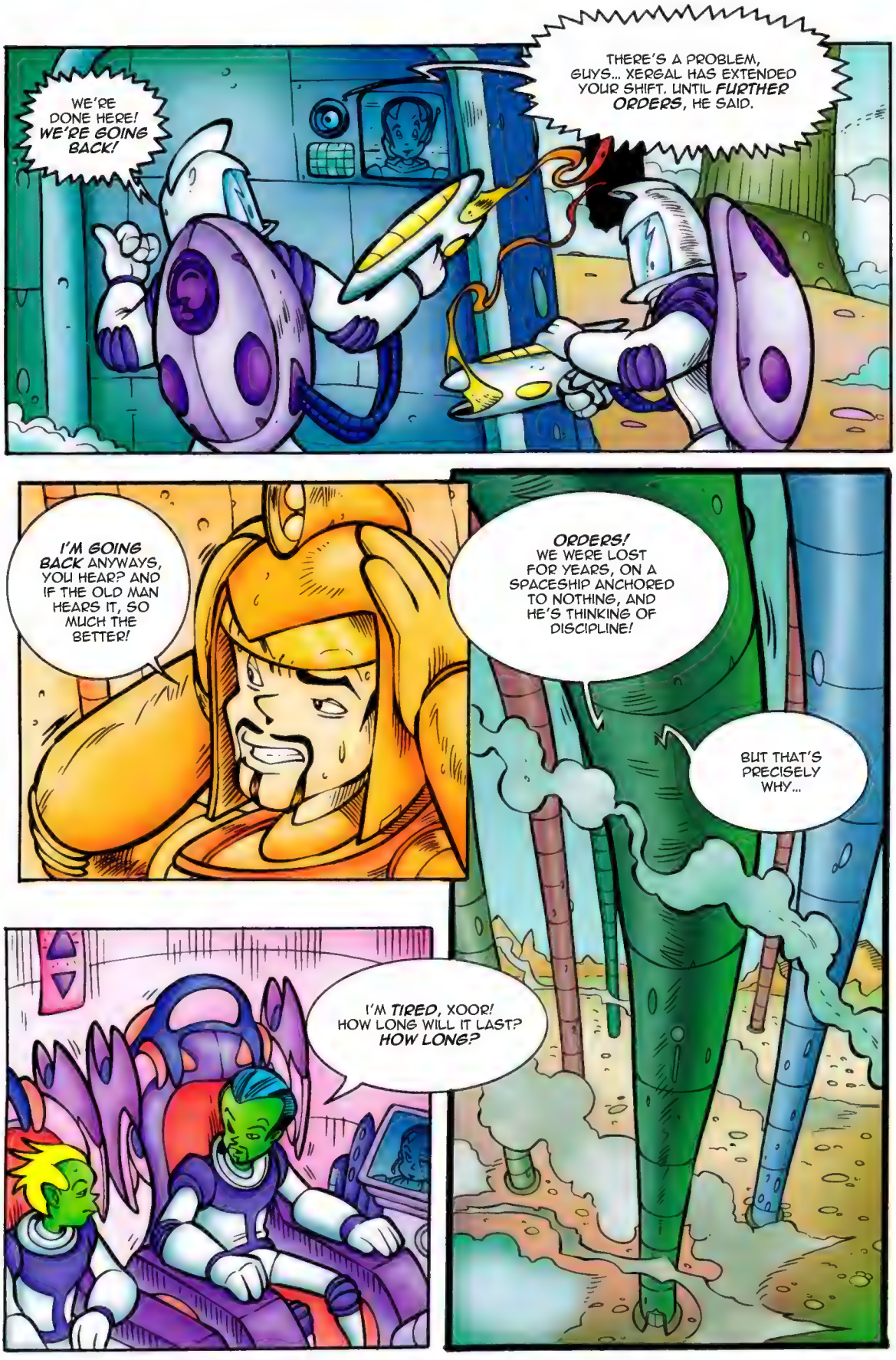
HERE, AN ALMOST LIVABLE PLANET! AND IT'S NOT FAR AWAY! THE WAVE GAVE US A HAND!
FANTASTIC! BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ALMOST" LIVABLE?
AND WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH BACTERIA AND FUNGUS? MAKE BREAKFAST?
I MEAN A GRADE THREE!
BACTERIA LIVES THERE. PERHAPS FUNGUS, DAAARLING.
I WILL REFUEL. THERE'S A LOT OF WATER THERE.
A LOT? YOU SURE THERE'S NOTHING ALIVE AND BIG THERE?
ALIVE, YES...

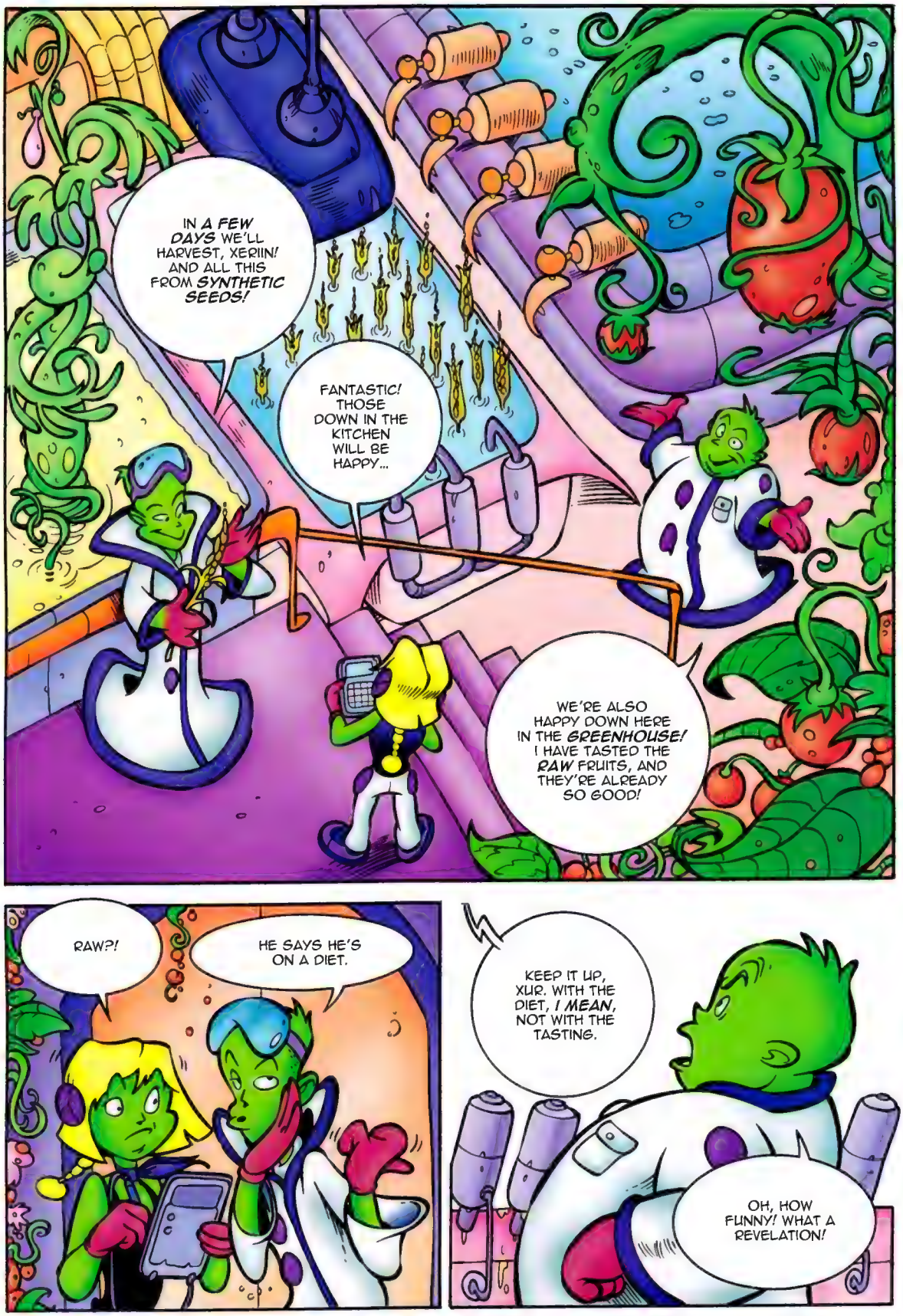

"... BIG, NO."
FUNGUS... PAH!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, XOOR. AND ROAST THEM FOR GOOD.

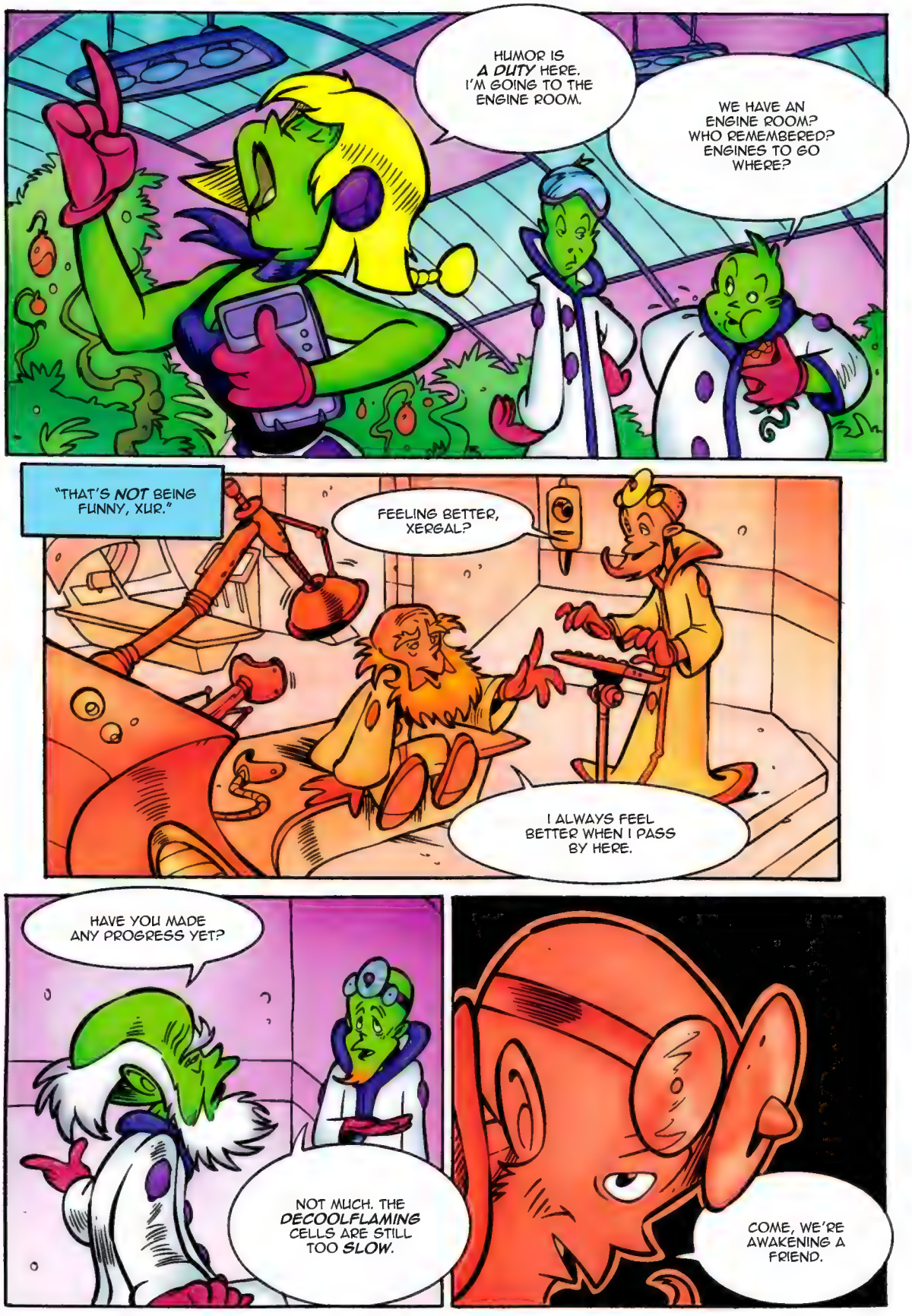

GREAT XERBA! THE LAST RAIN HAVE MADE THOUSANDS GROW!
IF THEY WERE EDIBLE...
THEY ARE EDIBLE, XOOR! IT'S YOUR WIFE WHO CAN'T COOK!
EHEM... XOOR, ABOUT THAT DINNER INVITATION FOR TOMORROW NIGHT, !...
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! SHE'S AN ACE IN THE KITCHEN!
CANCEL! CANCEL! HE HE!

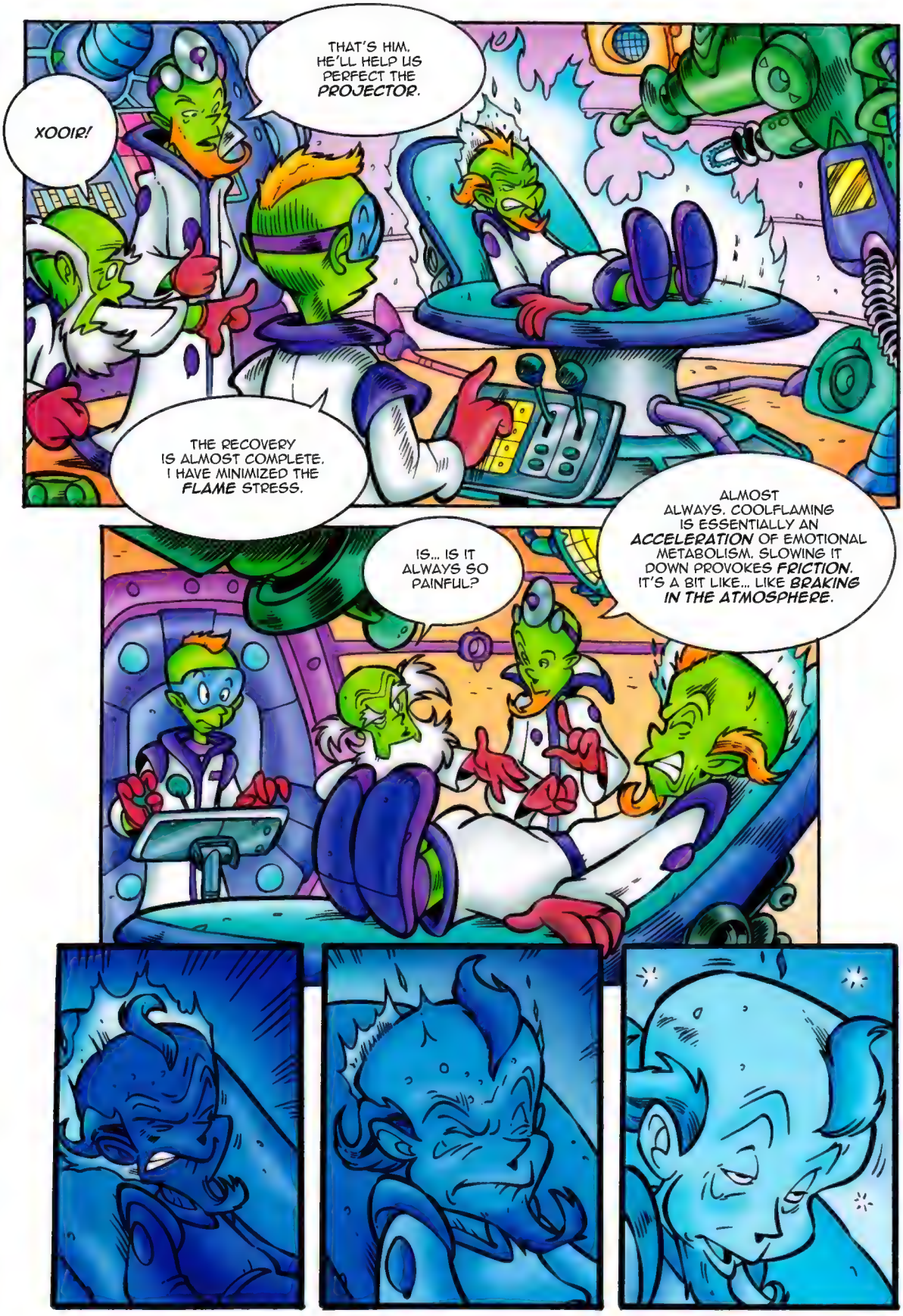

HAVING FUN, EH? GOOD, IT EVIDENTLY DOESN'T WEIGH DOWN THE WORK! PROCEED WITH THE DISINFESTATION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
I HEAR AND OBEY, XERGAL!
HMM...
THE SUPPLY DUCTS ARE IN PLACE.
THE EXTERIOR IS UNDER CONTROL, COMMANDER! NO PROBLEMS WITH THE WATER. BUT TWO DUCTS ARE *OUT OF ORDER!*
THOSE GUYS THINK SO TOO.


HOWEVER, THE PLANET HAS BEEN GENEROUS LATELY. FROM THE THIRD FIELD WE EXTRACTED AS MANY AS 12 BIOBLITHEN MIRADS!
GREAT. REMEMBER THAT WE NEED TO FIGHT THE COLD.
THE COLD THAT WE CAN FIGHT, AT LEAST...
THAT WHICH IS NOT IN OUR HEARTS.
CONTINUE YOUR ROUND, XERIIN. I'M TIRED... GO THROUGH THE CROP AREA. THEN CHECK THE ENGINE ROOM, PLEASE.
VERY WELL.

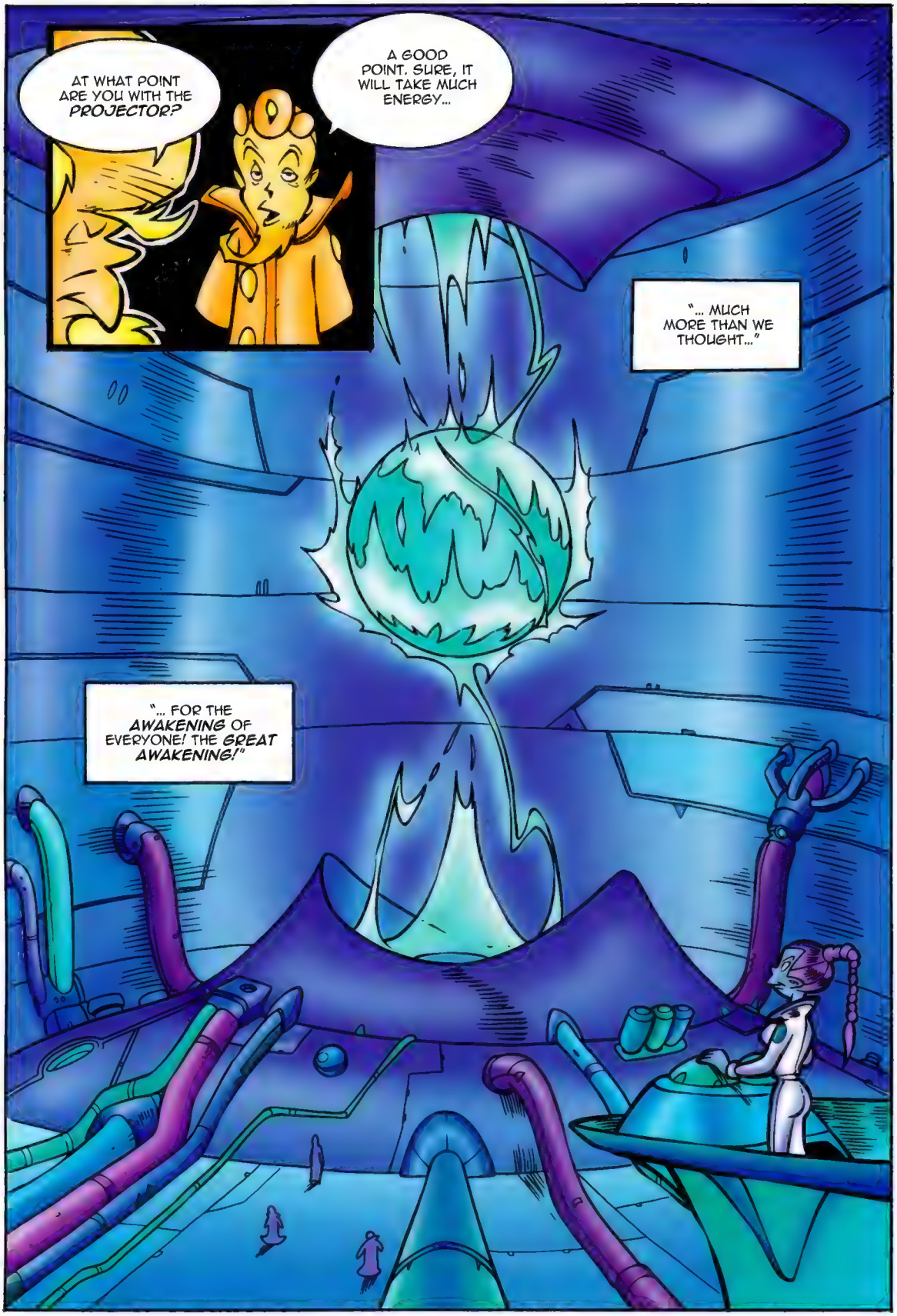

WE'RE DONE HERE! WE'RE GOING BACK!
THERE'S A PROBLEM, GUYS... XERGAL HAS EXTENDED YOUR SHIFT. UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS, HE SAID.
I'M GOING BACK ANYWAYS, YOU HEAR? AND IF THE OLD MAN HEARS IT, SO MUCH THE BETTER!
ORDERS! WE WERE LOST FOR YEARS, ON A SPACESHIP ANCHORED TO NOTHING, AND HE'S THINKING OF DISCIPLINE!
BUT THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...
I'M TIRED, XOOR! HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? HOW LONG?


IN A FEW DAYS WE'LL HARVEST, XERIIN! AND ALL THIS FROM SYNTHETIC SEEDS!
FANTASTIC! THOSE DOWN IN THE KITCHEN WILL BE HAPPY...
WE'RE ALSO HAPPY DOWN HERE IN THE GREENHOUSE! I HAVE TASTED THE RAW FRUITS, AND THEY'RE ALREADY SO GOOD!
RAW?!
HE SAYS HE'S ON A DIET.
KEEP IT UP, XUR. WITH THE DIET, I MEAN, NOT WITH THE TASTING.
OH, HOW FUNNY! WHAT A REVELATION!

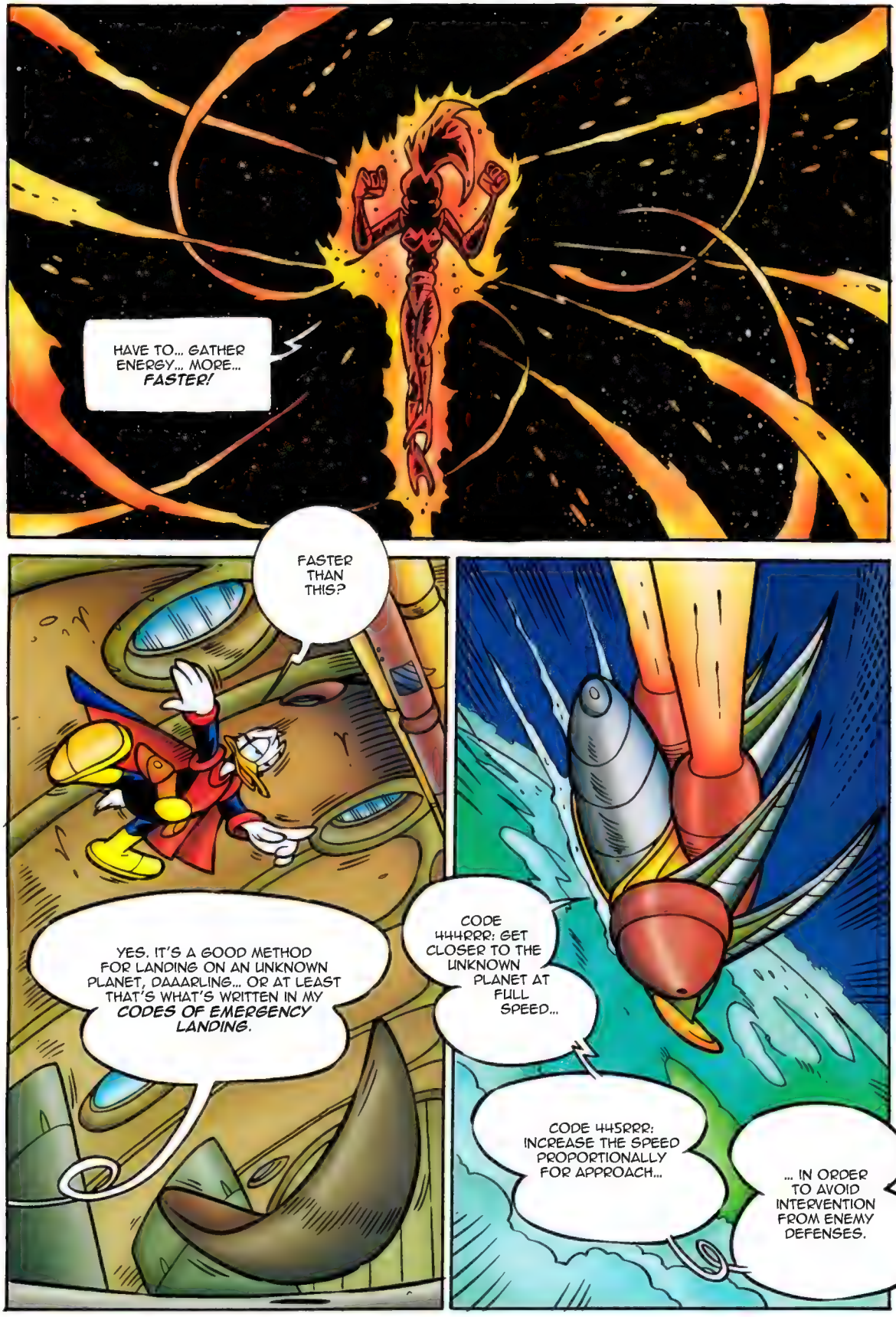

HUMOR IS *A DUTY* HERE. I'M GOING TO THE ENGINE ROOM.
WE HAVE AN ENGINE ROOM? WHO REMEMBERED? ENGINES TO GO WHERE?
"THAT'S *NOT* BEING FUNNY, XUR."
FEELING BETTER, XERGAL?
I ALWAYS FEEL BETTER WHEN I PASS BY HERE.
HAVE YOU MADE ANY PROGRESS YET?
NOT MUCH. THE *DECOOLFLAMING* CELLS ARE STILL TOO *SLOW*.
COME, WE'RE AWAKENING A FRIEND.

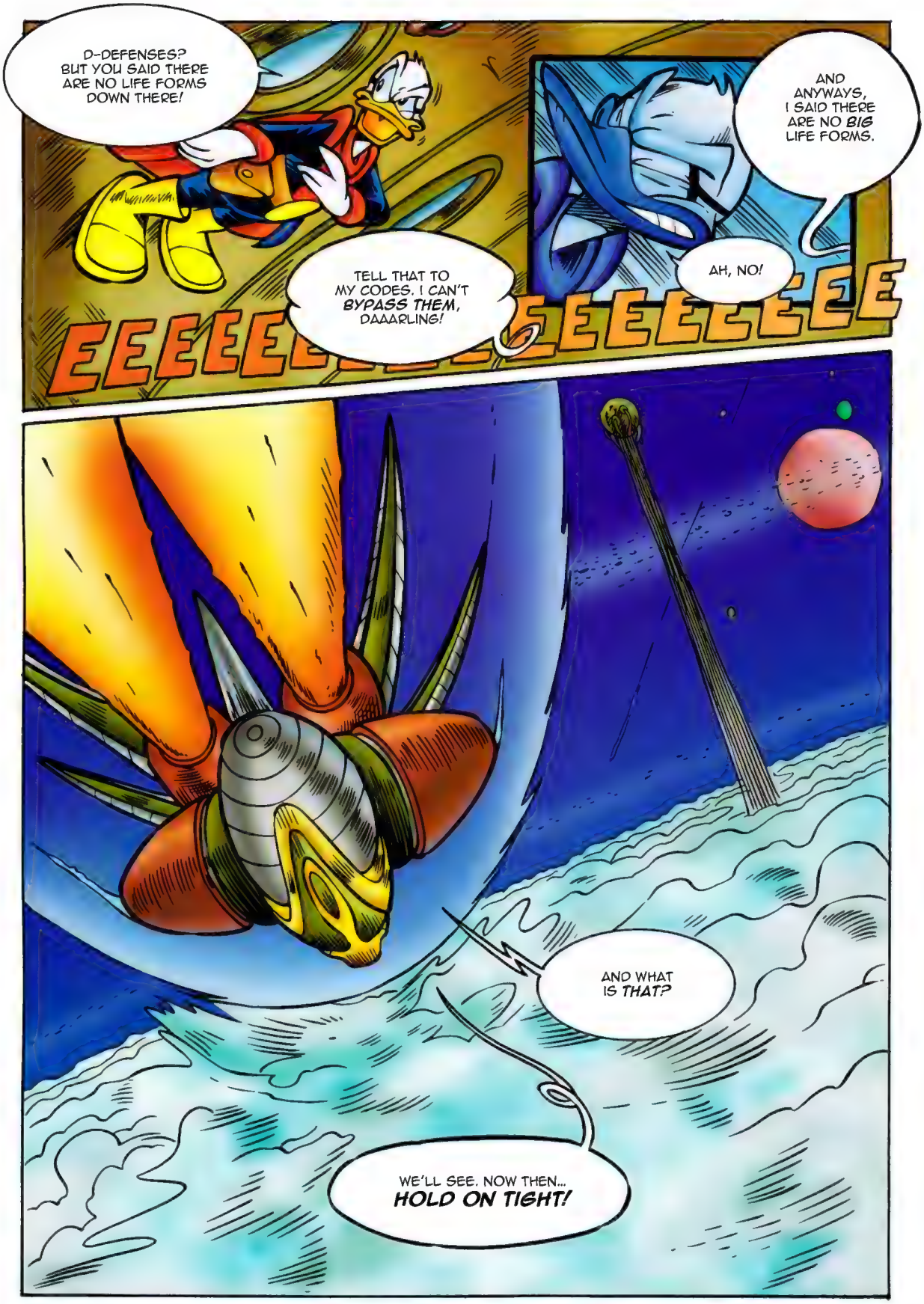

XOOIR!
THAT'S HIM. HE'LL HELP US PERFECT THE PROJECTOR.
THE RECOVERY IS ALMOST COMPLETE. I HAVE MINIMIZED THE FLAME STRESS.
IS... IS IT ALWAYS SO PAINFUL?
ALMOST ALWAYS. COOLFLAMING IS ESSENTIALLY AN ACCELERATION OF EMOTIONAL METABOLISM. SLOWING IT DOWN PROVOKES FRICTION. IT'S A BIT LIKE... LIKE BRAKING IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

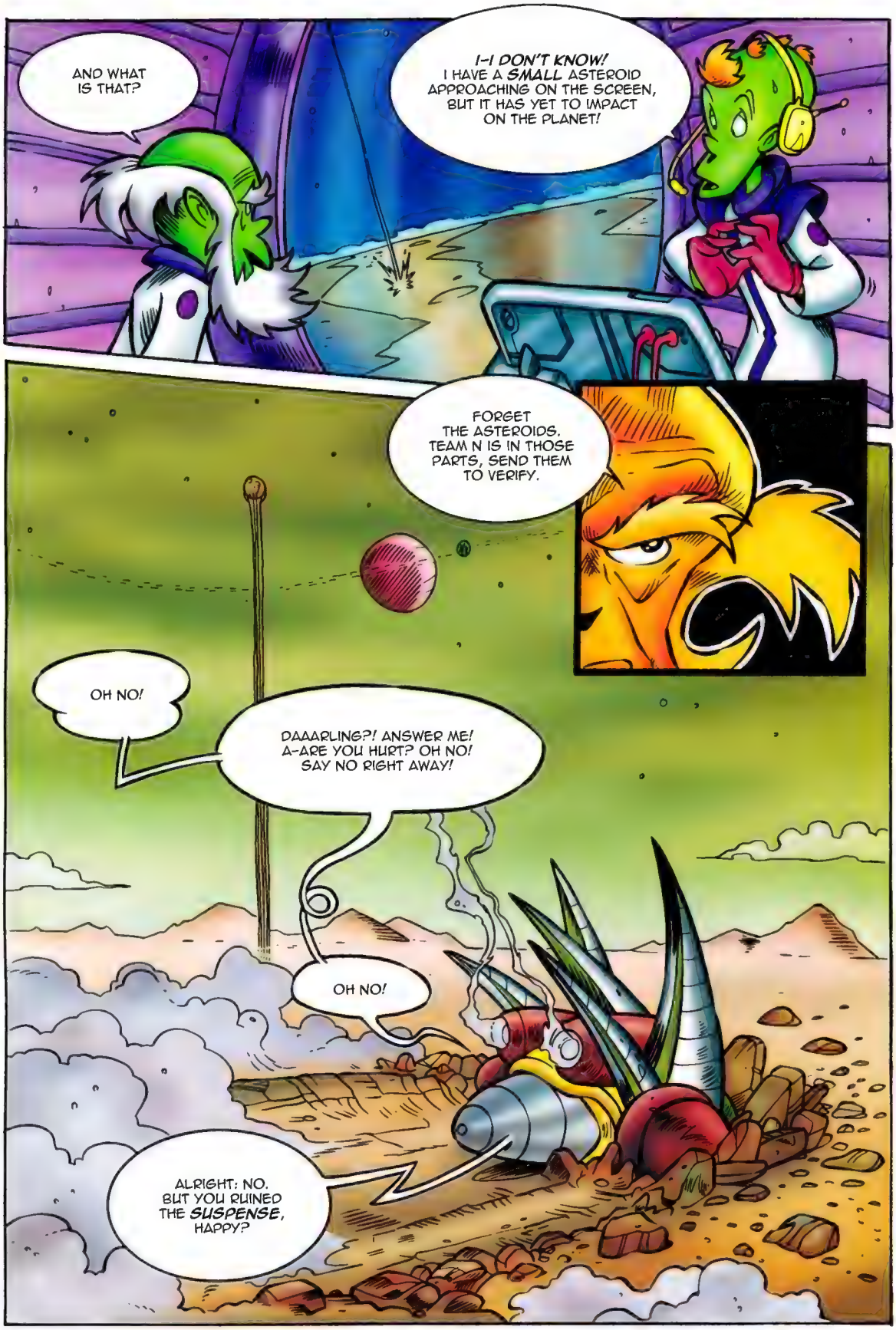
WELCOME BACK, ACADEMICIAN XOOIR!
MY HEAD...
IT WILL SOON GET BETTER!
XOOIR.
XERGAL! WHERE H-HAVE I BEEN?
AMONG US. BUT YOU WERE FAR AWAY.
ALL THAT BLUE! AND THAT COLD FLARE...
WE EXTINGUISHED IT. AND NOW YOU MUST HELP US TO DEFINITIVELY OVERCOME IT, FOR THE OTHERS!
WE NEED TO GENERALIZE THE DECOOLFLAMING!

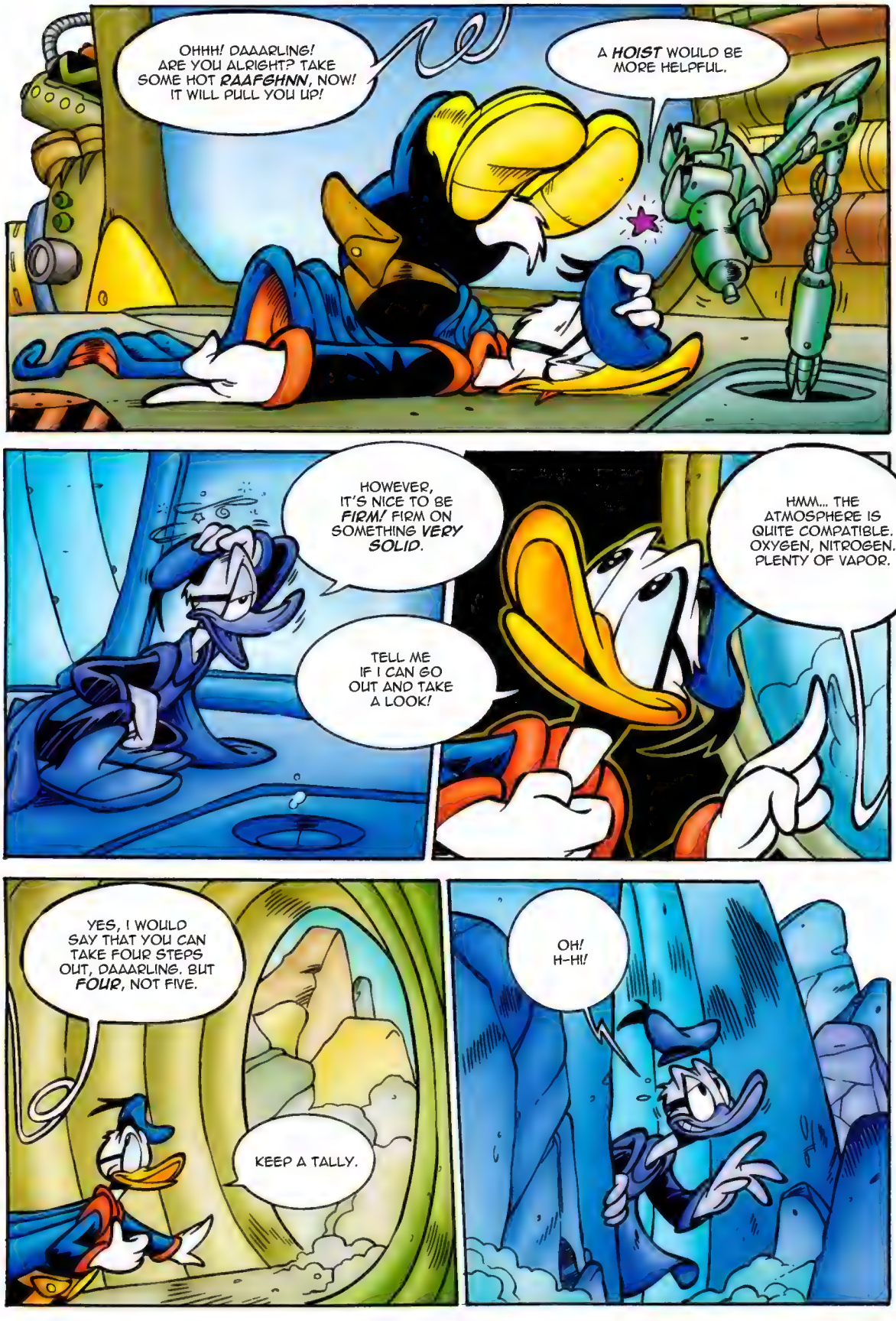

AT WHAT POINT ARE YOU WITH THE PROJECTOR?
A GOOD POINT. SURE, IT WILL TAKE MUCH ENERGY...
"... MUCH MORE THAN WE THOUGHT..."
"... FOR THE AWAKENING OF EVERYONE! THE GREAT AWAKENING!"

HURT... HURT... WHAT WAS THAT?
A WAVE. A W-W-W-WAVE!
IT CAME FROM FAR, FAR AWAY...
UNNNGH...
S-SOMETHING PASSED THROUGH.
IT WAS BIG... AND FAST! IT SURPASSED ME!
EVRON!

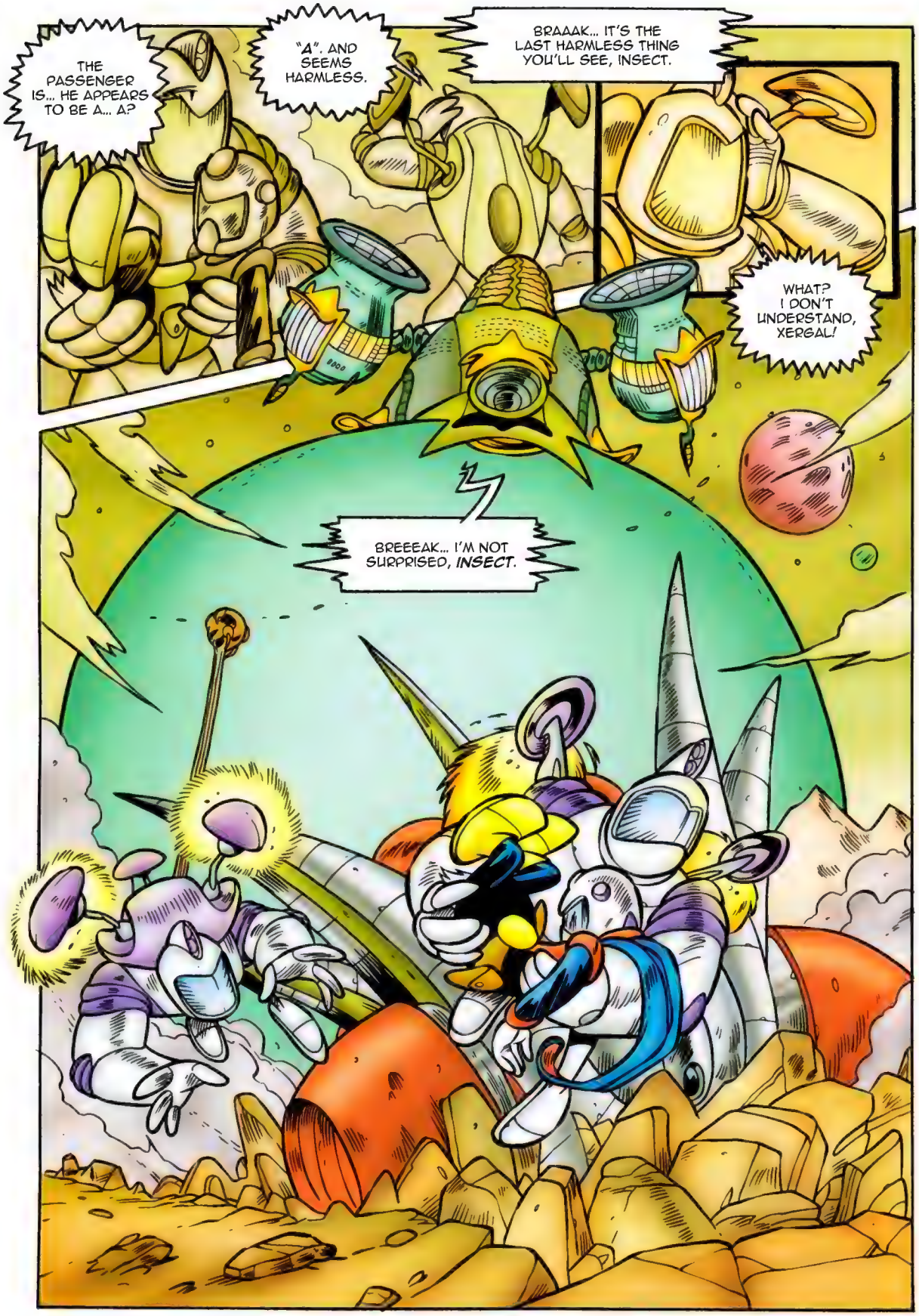

HAVE TO... GATHER ENERGY... MORE... FASTER!
FASTER THAN THIS?
YES. IT'S A GOOD METHOD FOR LANDING ON AN UNKNOWN PLANET, DAAARLING... OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT'S WRITTEN IN MY CODES OF EMERGENCY LANDING.
CODE 444RRR: GET CLOSER TO THE UNKNOWN PLANET AT FULL SPEED...
CODE 445RRR: INCREASE THE SPEED PROPORTIONALLY FOR APPROACH...
... IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERVENTION FROM ENEMY DEFENSES.


D-DEFENSES? BUT YOU SAID THERE ARE NO LIFE FORMS DOWN THERE!
AND ANYWAYS, I SAID THERE ARE NO BIG LIFE FORMS.
AH, NO!
TELL THAT TO MY CODES. I CAN'T BYPASS THEM, DAAARLING!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
AND WHAT IS THAT?
WE'LL SEE. NOW THEN... HOLD ON TIGHT!


AND WHAT IS THAT?
I-I DON'T KNOW! I HAVE A SMALL ASTEROID APPROACHING ON THE SCREEN, BUT IT HAS YET TO IMPACT ON THE PLANET!
FORGET THE ASTEROIDS. TEAM N IS IN THOSE PARTS, SEND THEM TO VERIFY.
OH NO!
DAAARLING?! ANSWER ME! A-ARE YOU HURT? OH NO! SAY NO RIGHT AWAY!
OH NO!
ALRIGHT: NO. BUT YOU RUINED THE SUSPENSE, HAPPY?


OHHH! DAAARLING! ARE YOU ALRIGHT? TAKE SOME HOT *RAAFSHNN*, NOW! IT WILL PULL YOU UP!
A *HOIST* WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL.
HOWEVER, IT'S NICE TO BE *FIRM!* FIRM ON SOMETHING *VERY SOLID*.
TELL ME IF I CAN GO OUT AND TAKE A LOOK!
HMM... THE ATMOSPHERE IS QUITE COMPATIBLE. OXYGEN, NITROGEN. PLENTY OF VAPOR.
YES, I WOULD SAY THAT YOU CAN TAKE FOUR STEPS OUT, DAAARLING. BUT *FOUR*, NOT FIVE.
KEEP A TALLY.
OH! H-HI!

HI.
THUD
SO?
BAD NEWS, XERGAL...
...THIS APPEARS TO BE AN EVRONIAN SHUTTLE.
I AM AN EVRONIAN SHUTTLE, DAAARLING! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MYSELF AND MY MOLECORTIC FIBER BRAIN!
BUT... IT TALKS!
LET IT TALK. WHO'S THE PASSENGER?

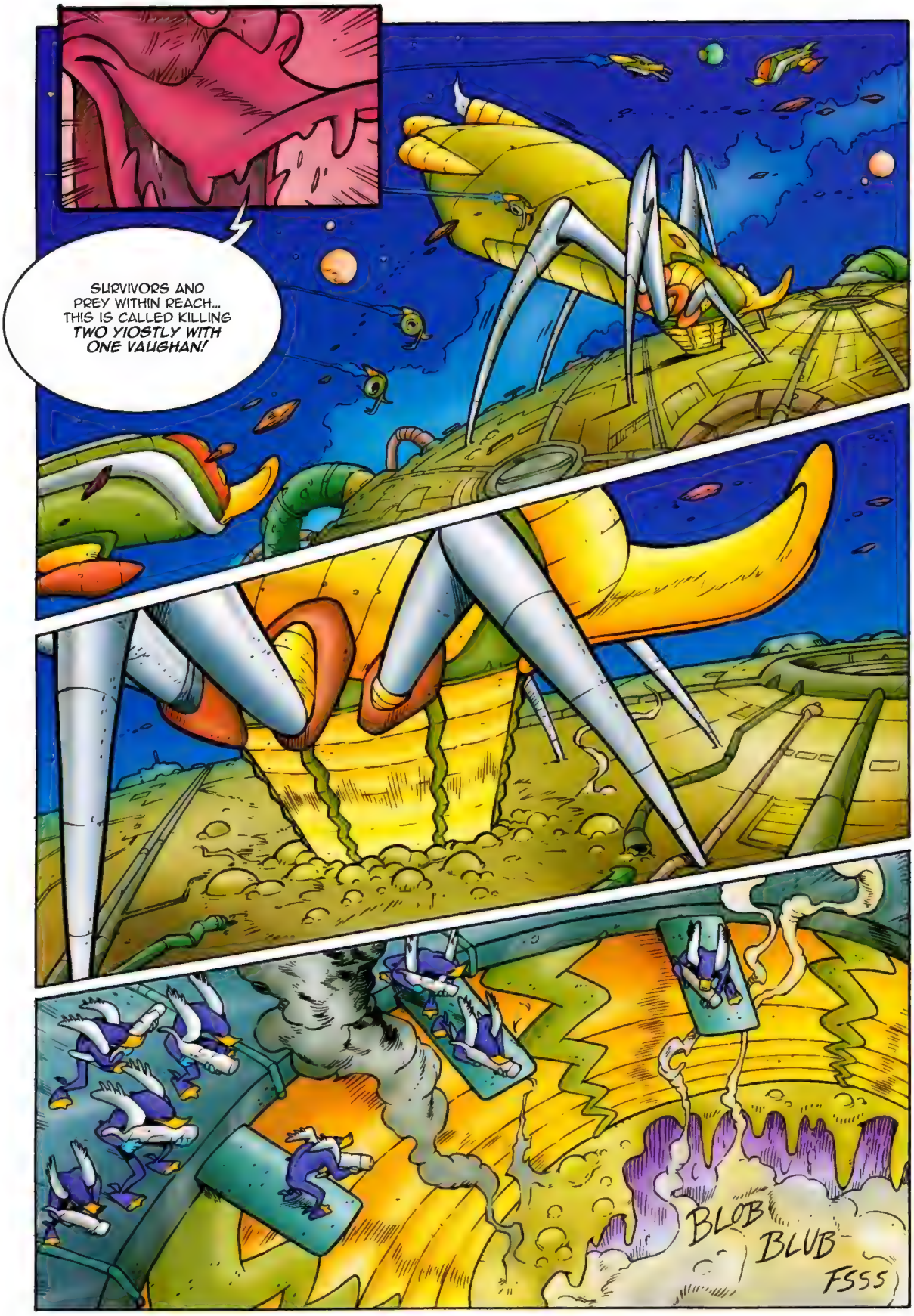

THE PASSENGER IS... HE APPEARS TO BE A... A?
"A". AND SEEMS HARMLESS.
BRAAAK... IT'S THE LAST HARMLESS THING YOU'LL SEE, INSECT.
WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, XERGAL!
BREEEAK... I'M NOT SURPRISED, *INSECT*.

GO UP, QUICK!
ALERTING ALL SECTORS! EVRON IS HERE!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? NO SIGNALS, NO SURVEYS... BUNGLERS!
I DON'T... UNDERSTAND! THE ONLY TRACE SEEMED LIKE THAT OF A... A...
AN ASTEROID, PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE. THE PROJECTION WORKED PERFECTLY, EMPEROR.
EXCELLENT. AND SURPRISING... EVERYTHING I EXPECTED, EXCEPT FOR SURVIVORS!

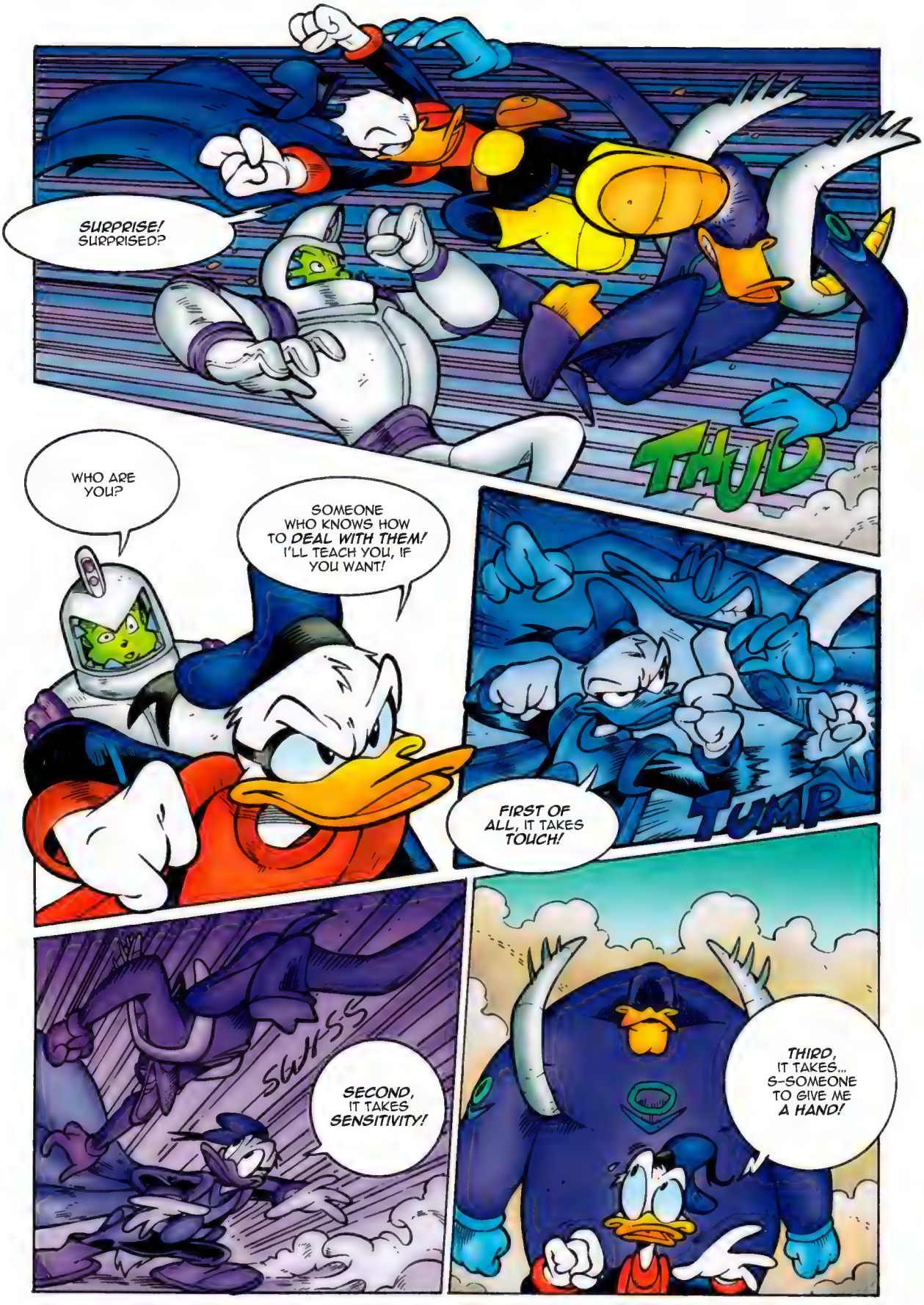
AAAA
GET READY TO FIGHT BACK! FOR XERBA!
AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA
LET HIM SLEEP...
AND HIM?
YOU AND YOU... TO THE WESTERN PLATFORM, QUICKLY!
AAA AAA AAA

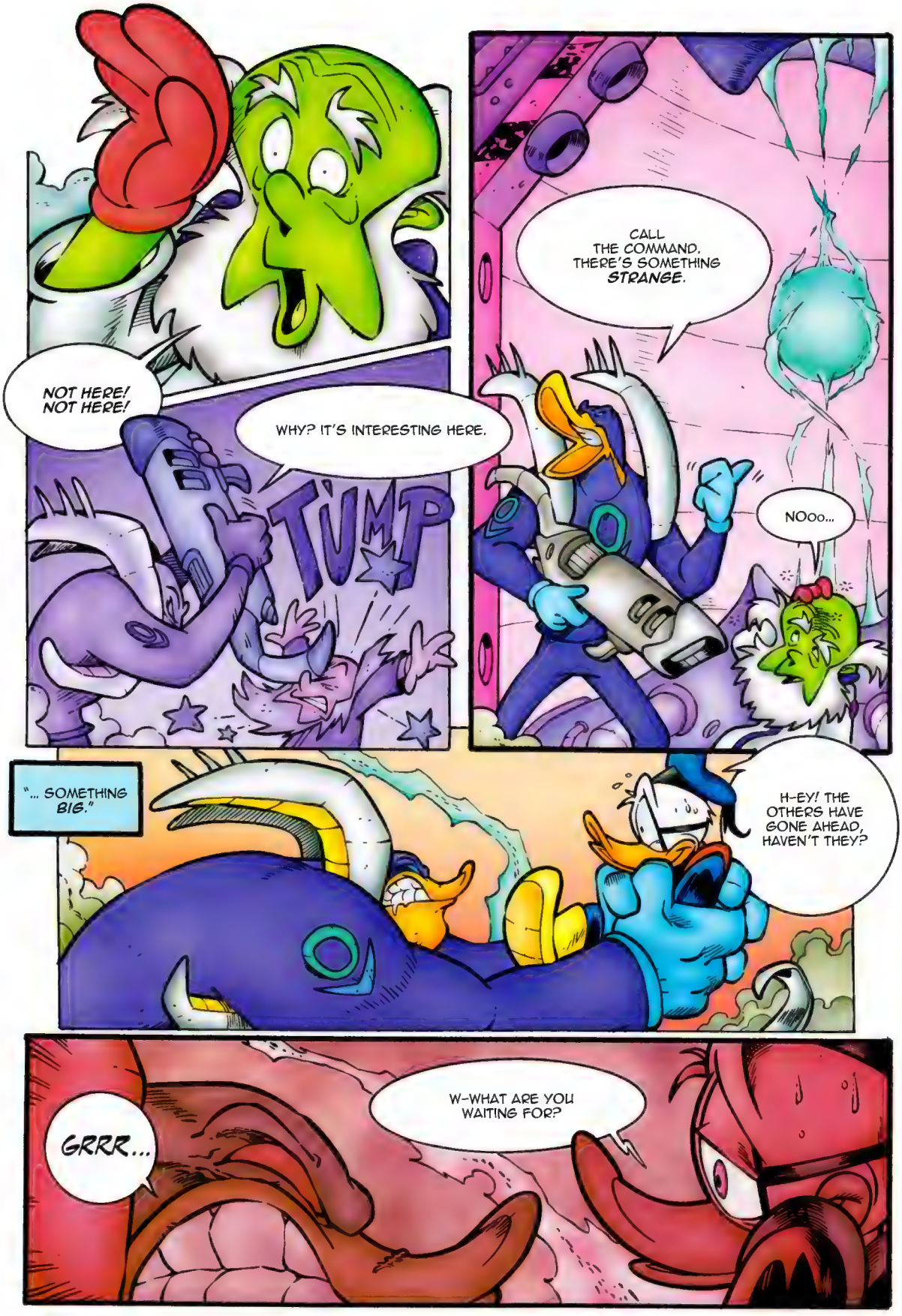
AAA-A
DEWEY... LOWER THE STEREO!
AA-AAA
DID YOU HEAR ME, DEWEY?
A-AAA-A
LOUIE?
HERE! IN ATTACK FORMATION! I WANT PRISONERS, REMEMBER THAT!

"AND I WANT THEM ALL!"
THE TRACE! WE ONCE AGAIN HAVE THE TRACE OF THE PREY!
WHERE?
ABOUT FIFTY QUADRANTS FROM US. SHE'S APPARENTLY LAGGING BEHIND.

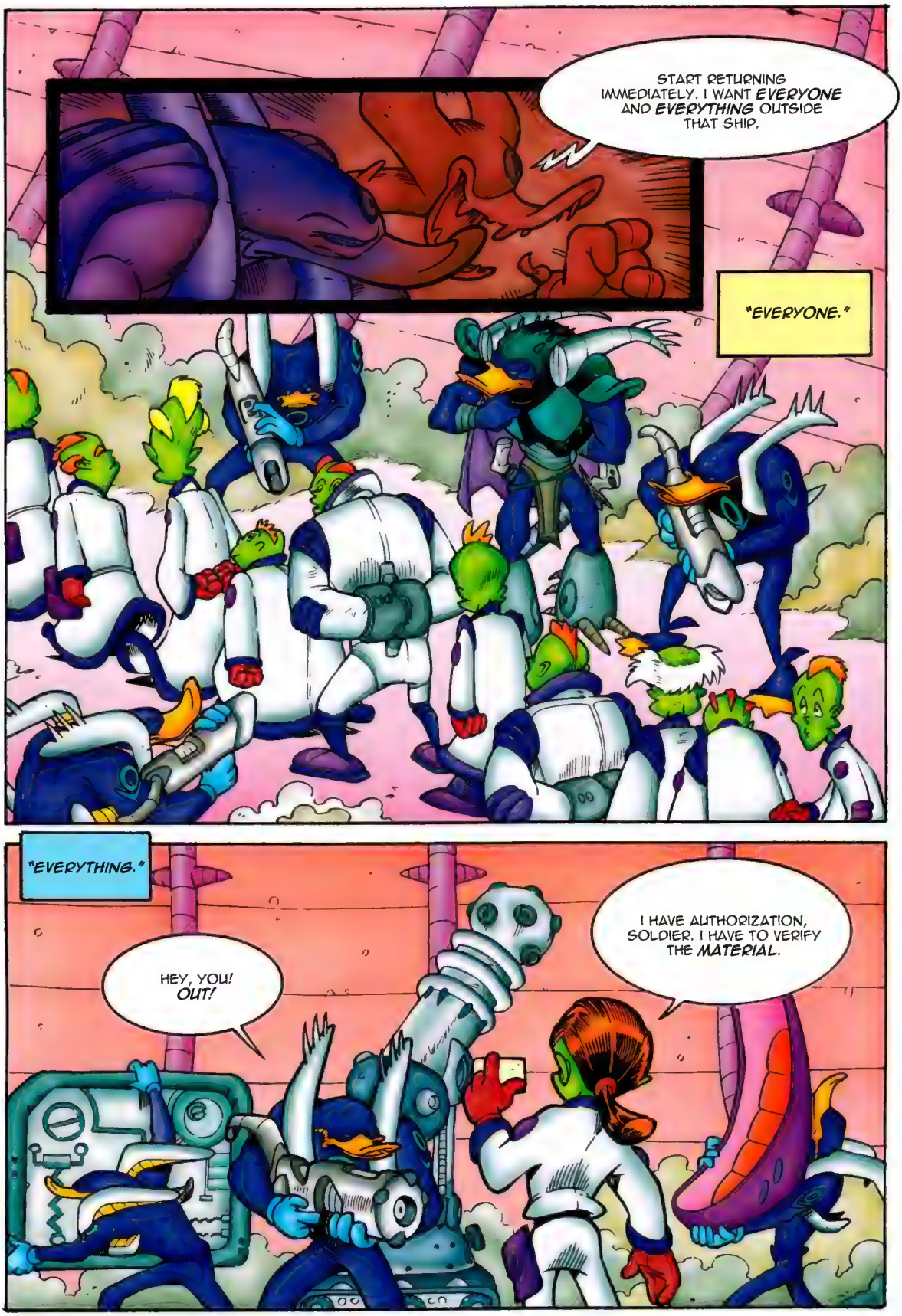

SURVIVORS AND PREY WITHIN REACH... THIS IS CALLED KILLING TWO YIOSTLY WITH ONE VAUGHAN!
BLOB
BLUB
FSSS

ARHA-RHARHA!
FORWARD! NOW!
OH, HERE'S A CLEAR SITUATION... HERE COME THE BAD GUYS AND I'M ON THE RIGHT SIDE!
GREAT XERBA... IIIEGH!

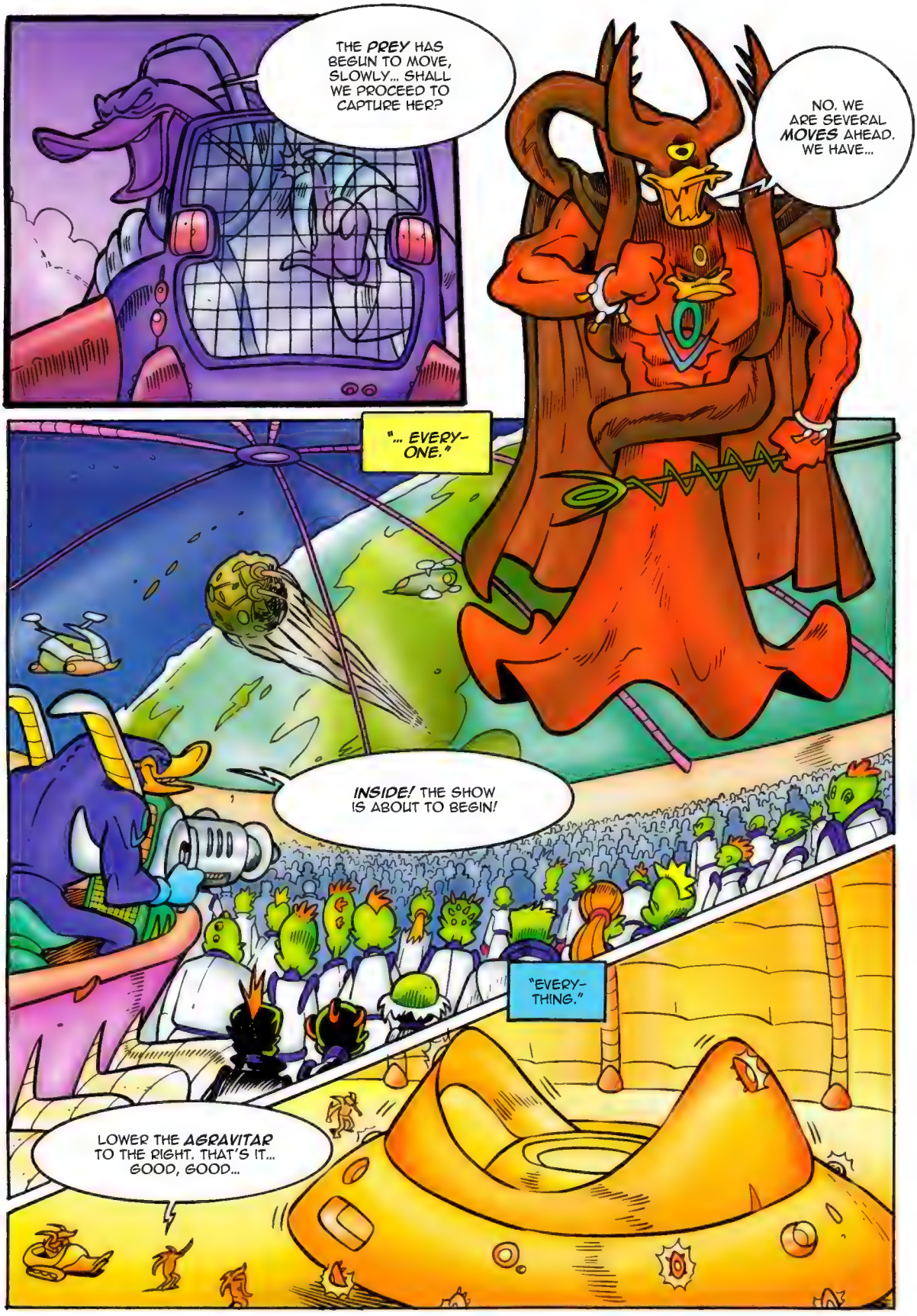

SURPRISE!
SURPRISED?
THUD
WHO ARE YOU?
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM! I'LL TEACH YOU, IF YOU WANT!
FIRST OF ALL, IT TAKES TOUCH!
THUMP
SWISS
SECOND, IT TAKES SENSITIVITY!
THIRD, IT TAKES... S-SOMEONE TO GIVE ME A HAND!

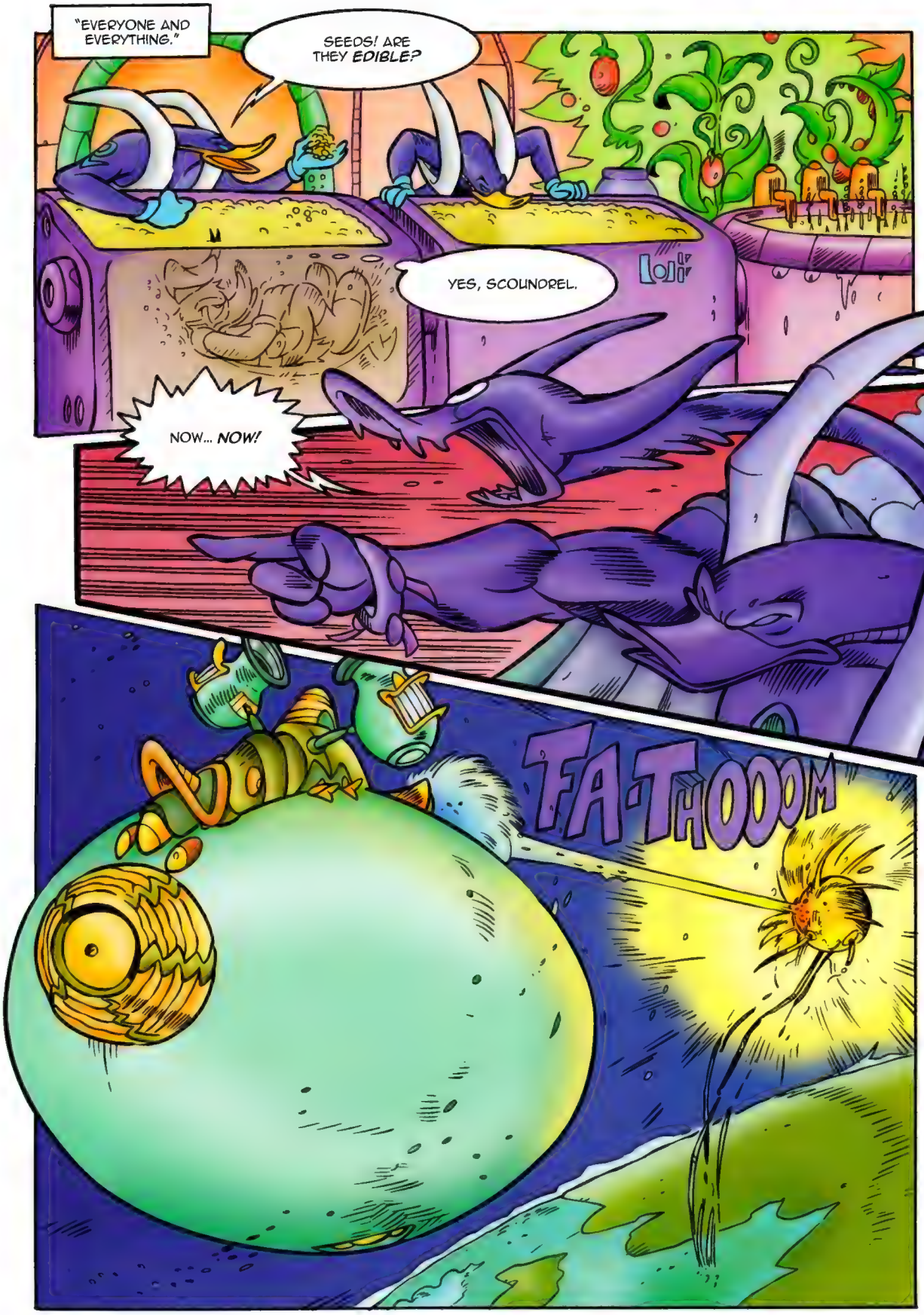

NOT HERE! NOT HERE!
WHY? IT'S INTERESTING HERE.
TUMP
CALL THE COMMAND. THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE.
NOoo...
"... SOMETHING BIG."
H-EY! THE OTHERS HAVE GONE AHEAD, HAVEN'T THEY?
GRRR...
W-WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

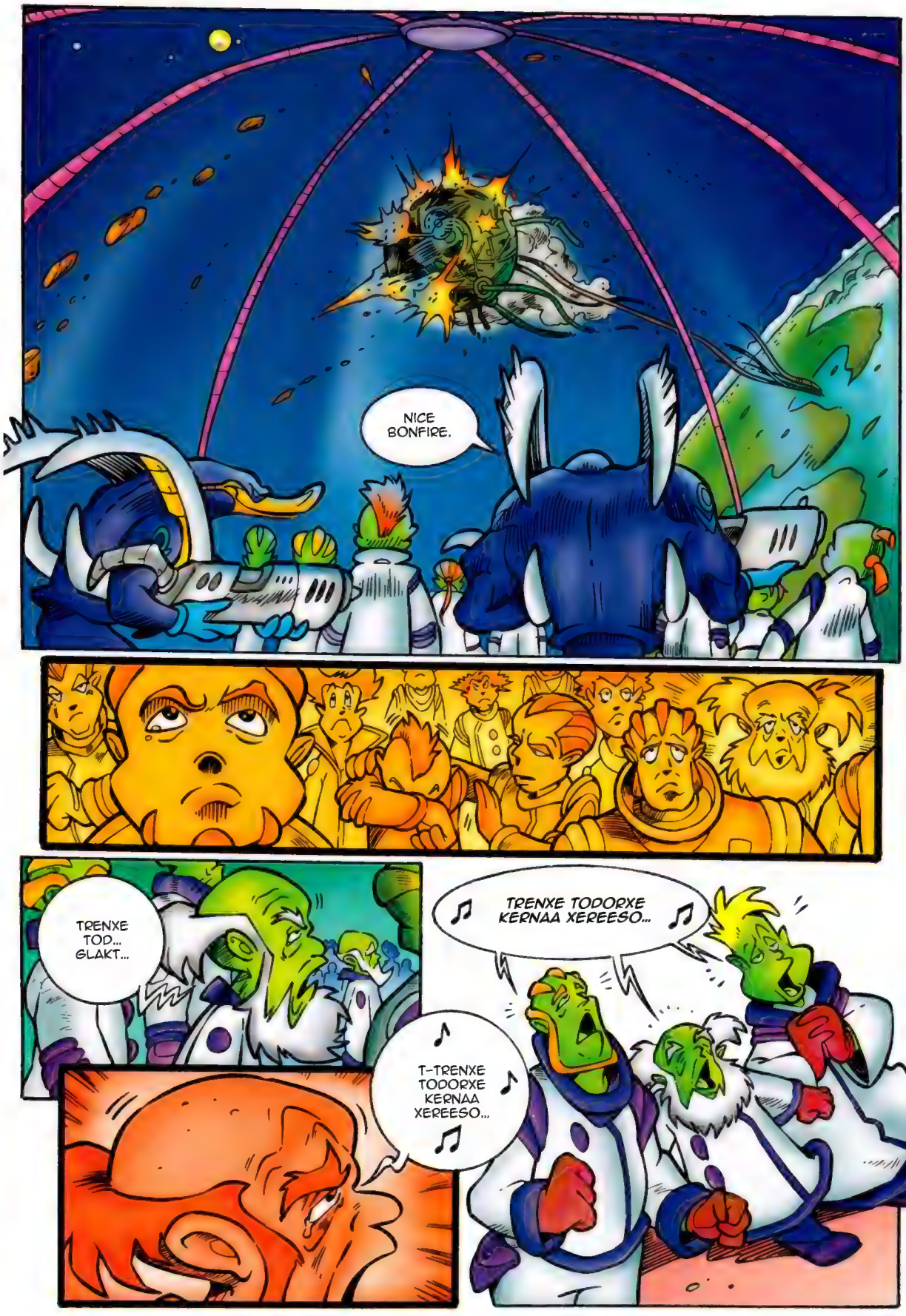
WHEN YOU FIGHT, YOU FIGHT, INSECT. YOU DON'T TALK.
CRUNCH
UNNNRRGH!
YOU SAID IT!
AND THAT'S D-DONE...
... BUT THE REST IS A DISASTER.
THERE AREN'T MANY LEFT WHO ARE RESISTING, EMPEROR.
GOOD.

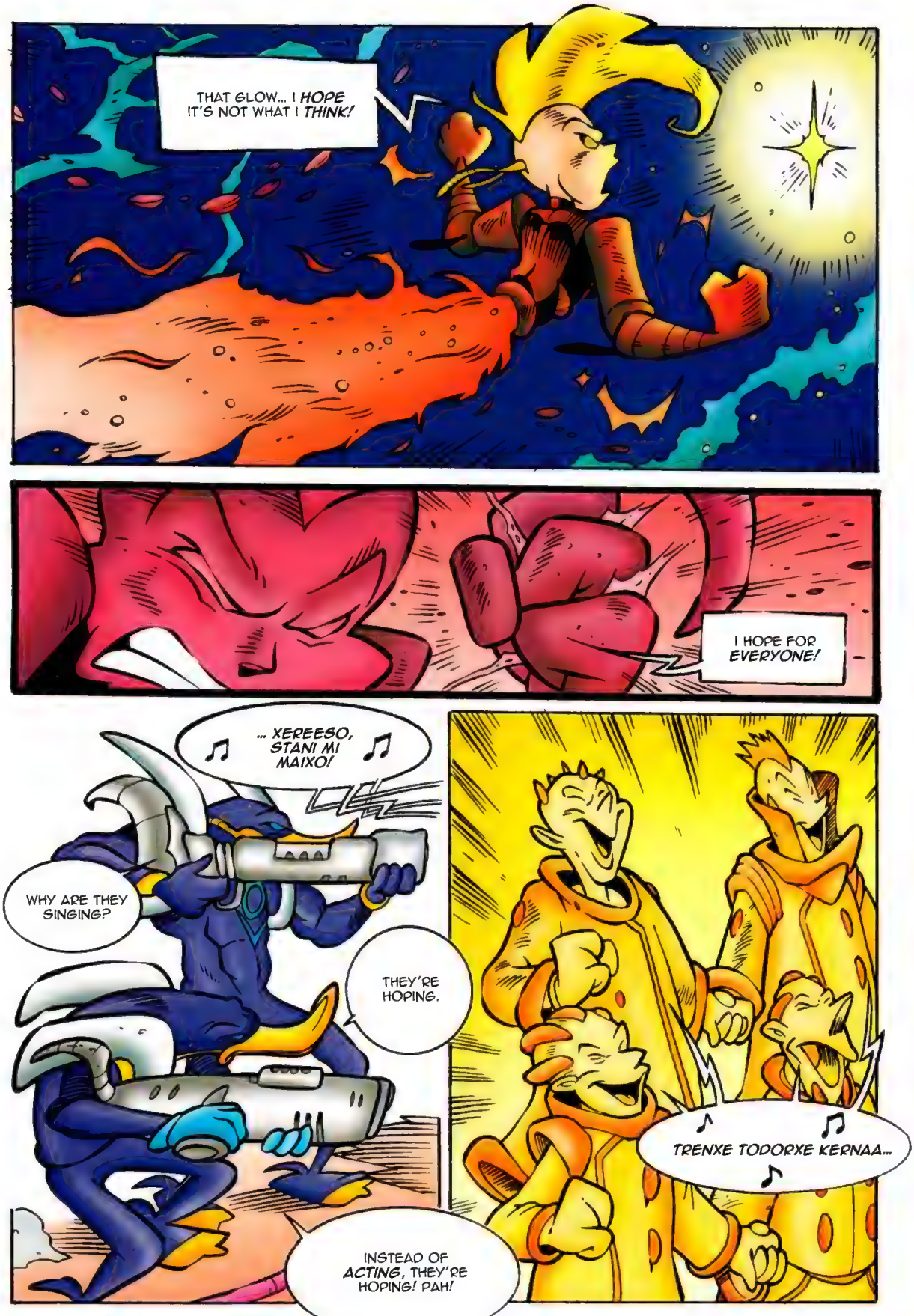

START RETURNING IMMEDIATELY. I WANT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THAT SHIP.
"EVERYONE."
"EVERYTHING."
HEY, YOU! OUT!
I HAVE AUTHORIZATION, SOLDIER. I HAVE TO VERIFY THE MATERIAL.

"EVERYONE."
THAT WAS EASY, EH, STAGG?
OUR NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY, THEIR BIOLOGICAL INFERIORITY! WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING?
SCOUNDRELS. SCOUNDRELS.
"EVERY-THING."
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING?
I CAN'T READ XERBIAN!
"AWAKENING PALLET."
"RELIEF CELLS."
RELIEF...

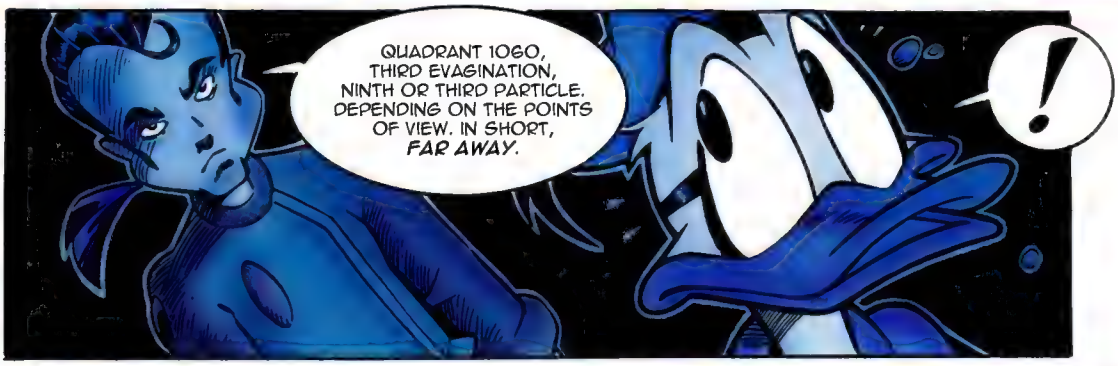

THE PREY HAS BEGUN TO MOVE, SLOWLY... SHALL WE PROCEED TO CAPTURE HER?
NO. WE ARE SEVERAL MOVES AHEAD. WE HAVE...
"... EVERY-ONE."
INSIDE! THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
"EVERY-THING."
LOWER THE AGRAVITAR TO THE RIGHT. THAT'S IT... GOOD, GOOD...

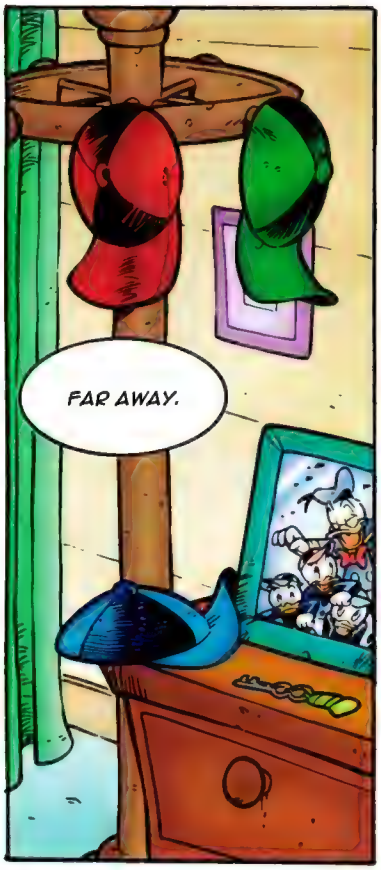

"EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING."
SEEDS! ARE THEY EDIBLE?
YES, SCOUNDREL.
NOW... NOW!
FA-THOOOM


NICE BONFIRE.
TRENXE TOD... GLAKT...
T-TRENXE TODORXE KERNAA XEREESO...
TRENXE TODORXE KERNAA XEREESO...

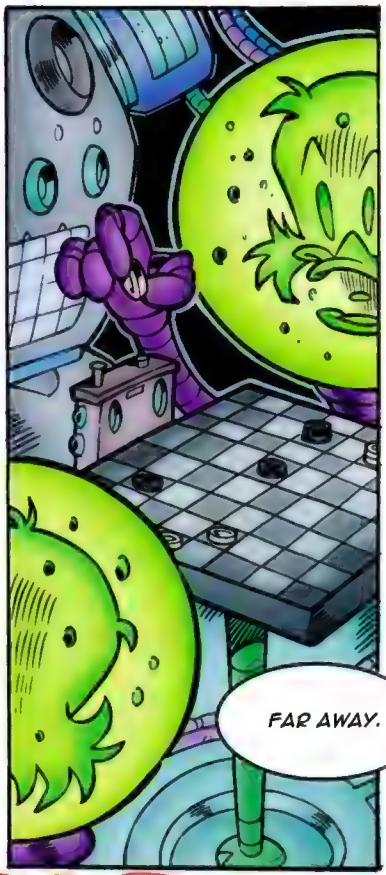

THAT GLOW... I HOPE IT'S NOT WHAT I THINK!
I HOPE FOR EVERYONE!
... XEREESO, STANI MI MAIXO!
WHY ARE THEY SINGING?
THEY'RE HOPING.
TRENXE TODORXE KERNAA...
INSTEAD OF ACTING, THEY'RE HOPING! PAH!

... XERESSO, STANI MI MAIXO SVIRI...
LISTEN TO THAT CONCERT! MUST BE A WELCOMING... BUT WHERE'S THE RECEPTION?

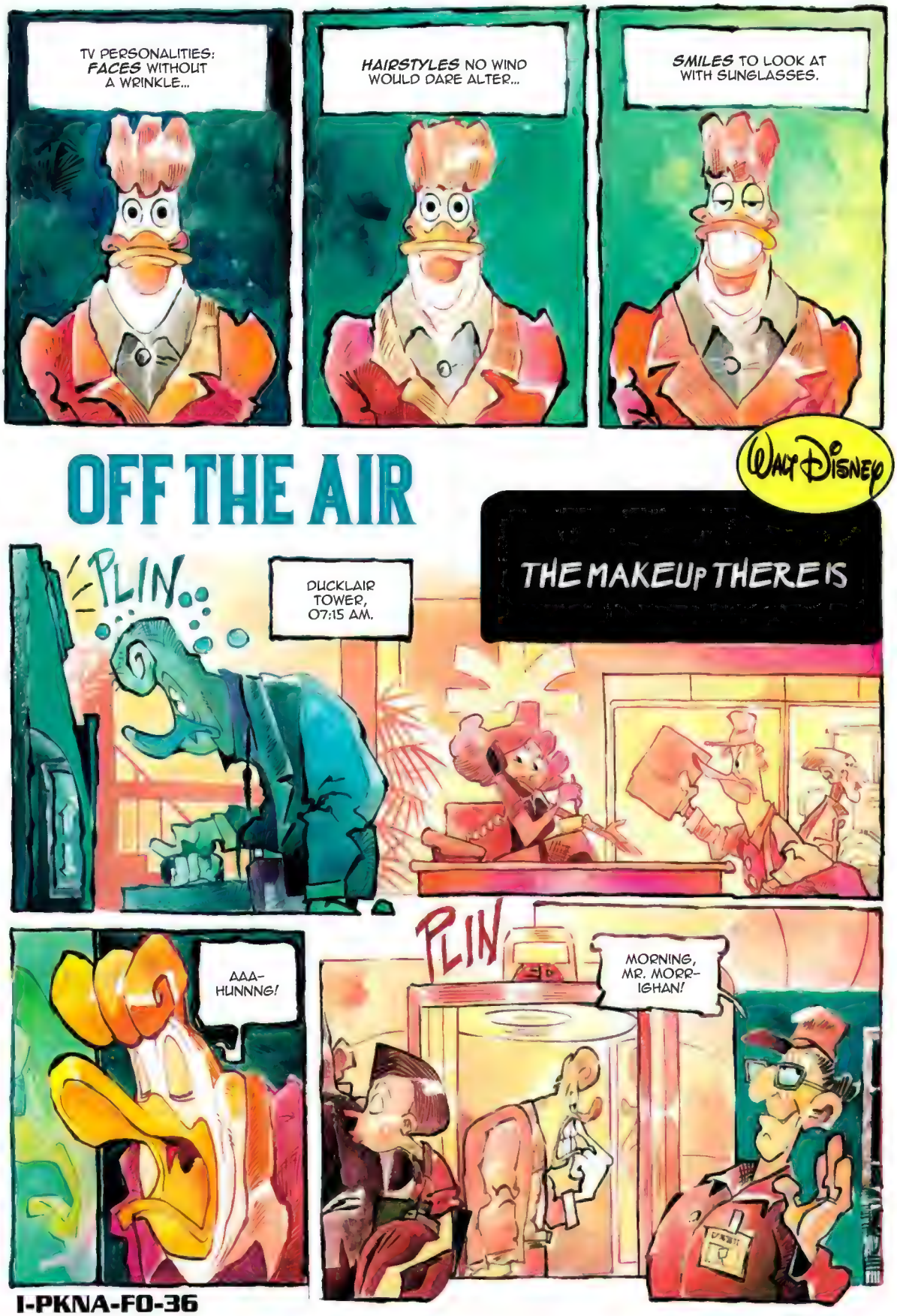

QUADRANT 1060, THIRD EVAGINATION, NINTH OR THIRD PARTICLE. DEPENDING ON THE POINTS OF VIEW. IN SHORT, FAR AWAY.
!


FAR AWAY.

Z!


FAR AWAY.

FINE


TV PERSONALITIES: *FACES* WITHOUT A WRINKLE...
HAIRSTYLES NO WIND WOULD DARE ALTER...
SMILES TO LOOK AT WITH SUNGLASSES.
WALT DISNEY
OFF THE AIR
THE MAKEUP THERE IS
PLIN...
DUCKLAIR TOWER, 07:15 AM.
PLIN
AAA-HUNNNG!
MORNING, MR. MORR-IGHAN!
I-PKNA-FO-36

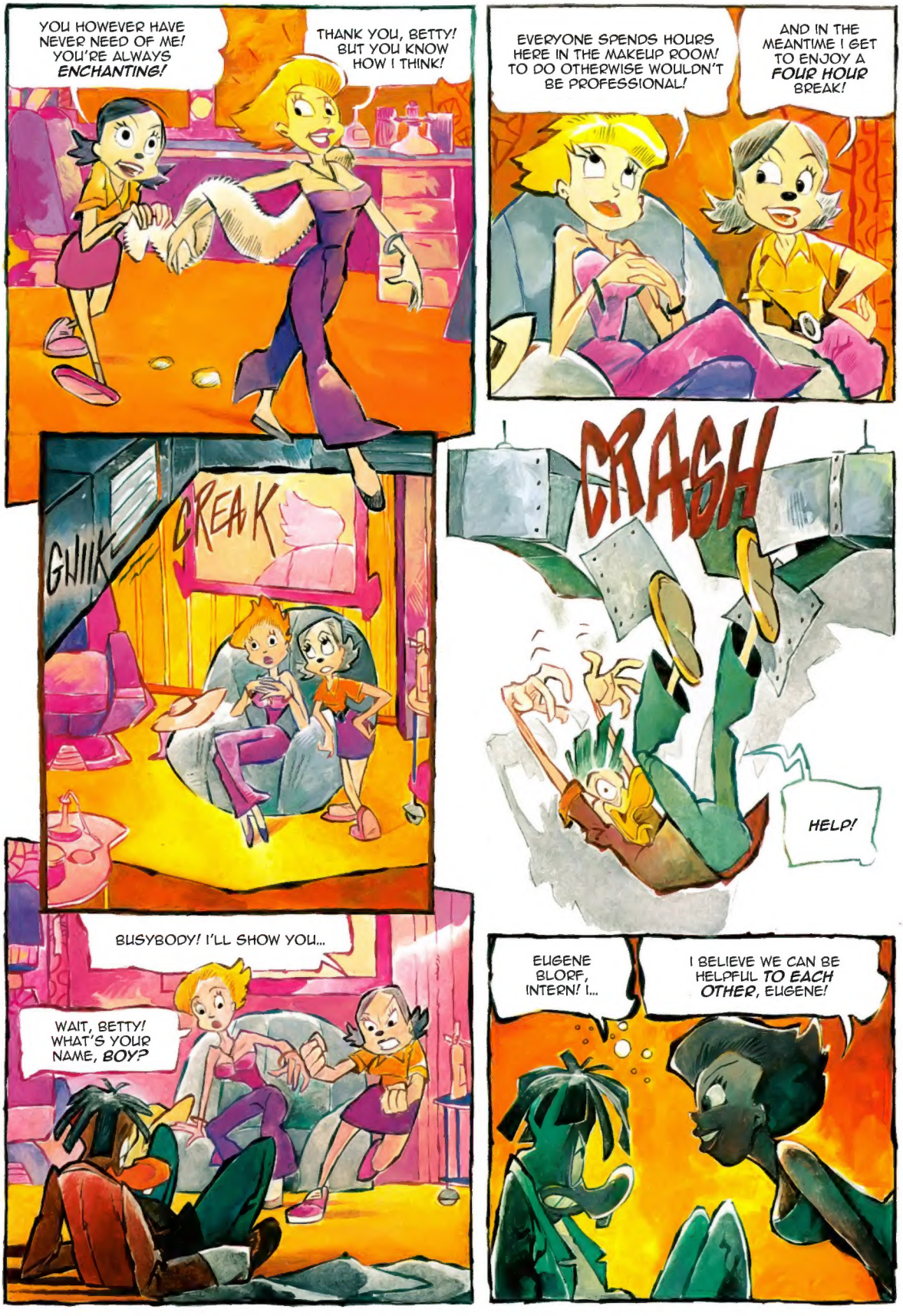
NEWS
SLEPT WELL, MIKE?
I CONFIRM MY THEORY...
YOU'RE NOT NORMAL! HOW CAN YOU JUMP LIKE A CRICKET AT THIS HOUR?
LIGHT DINNER AND QUIET NIGHT. MAKEUP'S WAITING FOR YOU!
THANKS FOR EXISTING, MAKEUP ROOM!
08:30 AM.
ALREADY HERE, ANGELA? YOU'RE GOING ON THE AIR IN THE AFTER-NOON TODAY!
AN URGENT JOB, BEFORE THE MAKEUP ROOM! HAS HENRIETTA ALREADY ARRIVED?
THANK HEAVENS, HENRIETTA! IT'S TERR-IBLE!
ANGELA BRADBURR
SLAM

I GET UP THIS MORNING AND I SEE THEM! FOUR HUGE PIMPLES ON THE CHEEK!
WITH THESE YOU'LL AGAIN BE SMOOTH AS A PEACH.
DON'T FORGET THE SUPER-FLUOUS HAIR ON THE CHIN!
I HAVE A PAIR OF PHENOMENAL TWEEZERS!
HOW LONG UNTIL MAKEUP?
MORE OR LESS SIX HOURS! NOW THERE'S MIKE AND THEN BARBARA DOYLE!
YEAH! THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO HAS IT WORSE THAN YOU...
BARBARA DOYLE, HOST OF "ANXIOUS WITH ANXIETIES"! TIME SPENT IN MAKEUP ROOM: FOUR HOURS!
GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL!
HI, BARBARA!
MAKEUP ROOM'S ALL YOURS!
GENTLE AS ALWAYS, MIKE! SEE YOU!
MAKEUP ROOM

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR BARBARA, YOU KNOW?
I FIND HER SO STRANGE, HOWEVER!
THE REAL BARBARA IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN HOW WE SEE HER!
IN MY PARTS THEY CALL HER IGUANA! GYEH GYEH!
WHAT REASON DOES SHE HAVE TO HIDE SUCH BEAUTY?
THAT'S THE POINT, LYLA!
EVERY DAY SHE GOES INTO THAT ROOM, ORDERS TWO COFFEES AND SUFFER WHILE HIDING HER SECRET!
WHAT SECRET?
TWO COFFEES FOR THE MAKEUP ROOM!
GIVE IT HERE! I'LL PUT THEM IN FRONT OF THE DOOR! NO ONE CAN ENTER!

SHE'S UGLY, LYLA! BARBARA DOYLE WITHOUT MAKEUP IS UNSIGHTLY!
WHAT A TRAGEDY FOR A STAR LIKE HER! POOR THING!
ALL JUST ENVY!
GYEH GYEH!
HMM... I WOULD IN FACT LIKE TO HAVE HER MOUSTACHE!
COME ON! HAS ANY OF YOU SEEN HER NATURAL FACE?
WHAT NEED IS THERE? WE ALREADY HAVE PROOF!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE STORY OF HER BOYFRIEND?
SHE SAYS HE'S A PHOTO-JOURNALIST WHO'S ALMOST NEVER AT HOME!
EXACTLY!
DO THE MATH, LYLA! HE'S NEVER AT HOME BECAUSE HE DOESN'T EXIST!
AN EXCUSE AS OLD AS THE WORLD!
BUT IF IT'S A TESTIMONY YOU WANT, A TESTIMONY YOU SHALL HAVE!
I'D PAY TO KNOW THE TRUTH!

HEY, BLORF! YOU REMEMBER THOSE NEWS OF LAST MONTH?
WHO COULD FORGET, MR. FANGUS?
IF THEY HAD ENDED UP ON THE DIRECTOR'S TABLE, I'D HAVE LOST MY JOB! THANKS AGAIN!
I DON'T NEED YOUR GRATITUDE!
UNLESS YOU DON'T WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO PAY ME BACK...
10:00 AM, THE DAY AFTER...
YOUR TURN, BARBARA!
THANK YOU, MIKE! HAVE A NICE DAY!
HAVE YOU ALREADY ORDERED THE COFFEE, BETTY?
IT'S ON ITS WAY! UFF! MAKING UP MORRIGHAN WOULD TAKE A RESTORER!


YOU HOWEVER HAVE NEVER NEED OF ME! YOU'RE ALWAYS ENCHANTING!
THANK YOU, BETTY! BUT YOU KNOW HOW I THINK!
EVERYONE SPENDS HOURS HERE IN THE MAKEUP ROOM! TO DO OTHERWISE WOULDN'T BE PROFESSIONAL!
AND IN THE MEANTIME I GET TO ENJOY A FOUR HOUR BREAK!
GWIIK
CREAK
CRASH
HELP!
BUSYBODY! I'LL SHOW YOU...
WAIT, BETTY! WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?
EUGENE BLORF, INTERN! I...
I BELIEVE WE CAN BE HELPFUL TO EACH OTHER, EUGENE!

ARE YOU OKAY, EUGENE?
SLAM
SO? DID YOU MAKE IT?
HOW IS SHE?
WELL... BARBARA IS... HOW DO I SAY IT...
WITH YOUR WORDS, BOY!
BLORF! BARBARA'S READY TO BEGIN!
COMING!
WHAT? YOU'RE PART OF HER STAFF?
SORRY, MR. FANGUS! I... COULDN'T REFUSE!
SHE'S HYPNOTIZED HIM! SHE ALSO HAS PARANORMAL POWERS!
SLAM
MAKEUP ROOM
WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS SHE, THAT BARBARA?
FINE

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90036>